



THE INDEPENDENT

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The Sun comes out

DAVID YELLAND SPEAKS, FRONT

Feminism: this year's model?

YVONNE ROBERTS, COMMENT PAGE 5

Support your local eco-warrior

THE MARK STEEL COLUMN, PAGE 8

IN THE FRIDAY REVIEW + FOUR PAGES OF MUSIC

Revealed: Labour 'dirty tricks' to undermine the Lib Dems

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

THE LABOUR Party has secretly set up a special "dirty tricks" unit to combat the Liberal Democrats, despite the agreement signed by Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown for closer co-operation between the two parties.

The Labour move, revealed in an internal document leaked to *The Independent*, triggered Liberal Democrat accusations last night of "hypocrisy" by Mr Blair, who pledged to end the "destructive tribalism" of British politics when he announced his new deal with Mr Ashdown this week.

On Tuesday, as the two leaders finalised their joint statement, a memorandum was sent out by Labour's Millbank headquarters in London. Announcing the "new project", it urged party officials throughout the country to monitor the Liberal Democrats' activities so Labour could "nail their lies and hypocrisy wherever they occur".

Amid fears of heavy Labour losses in next May's local elections, Labour HQ asked local officials to collate any Liberal Democrat propaganda, press coverage or "inside information". The memo said it would be stored on the controversial Excalibur computer database.

The secret Labour operation has heightened fears among Liberal Democrat activists that Mr Blair is determined to neuter their party, despite his calls for an anti-Tory alliance "to ensure the ascendancy of progressive politics".

The disclosure also fuelled a grassroots rebellion against Mr Ashdown, who is already under fire for not consulting the party about his deal with the Prime Minister to widen the



The leaked document which has triggered accusations of hypocrisy against Tony Blair and could further undermine Paddy Ashdown's efforts to secure backing for his agreement with Labour

remits of the cabinet committee on which senior Liberal Democrats discuss constitutional reform.

The Liberal Democrat leader will face strong criticism on Monday when he appeals to the party's ruling federal executive to back his agreement with Labour. Some activists are so furious that they plan to demand a special party conference in the hope it will scupper the deal.

Such a humiliating defeat for his strategy could persuade Mr Ashdown to resign as party leader.

Norman Baker, the Liberal Democrat MP for Lewes, said the timing of the Labour operation against his party was curious. "It does seem at odds with the Prime Minister's professed views."

Peter Moore, Liberal Democrat leader on Sheffield City Council, which the party hopes

to gain from Labour in May, said: "On the one hand, Mr Blair talks about getting rid of tribal politics. At the same time, his organisation is sharpening its war axes and arrows. What is more tribal than that?"

Labour sources denied the move was at odds with the Blair-Ashdown pact. One official said: "This is about stopping the Lib Dems saying one thing in one part of the country and another

thing somewhere else. All we are doing is collating information."

Labour was much more positive about the deal, while anxious Liberal Democrat leaders sought to reassure their dissidents by playing down its scope.

Mr Blair said he was setting "no limits" to the closer links with the Liberal Democrats. "I have always believed that where politicians can agree, it is sensible for them to work to-

gether. I am not a tribalist in politics." But he made clear the Liberal Democrats would not be able to push the Government into early entry into the single European currency.

In the Commons, left-wing Labour MPs expressed their doubts about the new deal. Tony Benn said the voters had elected a Labour government, not a Lib-Lab one. "The relations between two political parties

in this House are not a private matter between two leaders, but concern the relationship between the legislature and the executive." Dennis Skinner attacked "tin-pot arrangements with these rag-tag and bobtail". And he added: "They are totally unreliable. As soon as we get rid of this barmy idea the better."

Jack Cunningham, Mr Blair's cabinet "enforcer", and Alan Beith, the Liberal Democrat deputy leader, held their first meeting to review the workings of the joint cabinet committee yesterday. Dr Cunningham said: "We hope to identify issues to broaden the agenda of discussion and look at ways we can work together in the interests of the country. We agreed to consider how we might strengthen the process."

Steve Richards, Review, page 3

Britons flown out of Iraq war zone

THE FOREIGN Office warned all British nationals to leave Iraq immediately amid signs yesterday that a countdown to military action had begun.

British tourists in vulnerable Middle Eastern countries began streaming home and England's participation in an under-18 football tournament in Israel was cancelled. Hundreds of holidaymakers in Israel were being flown home last night and tour operators were cancelling flights to the region.

The football cancellation came after the Football Association asked the European Federation, Uefa, to postpone next week's event involving Spain, Andorra and Israel.

The United States and Britain continued to muster forces for a possible attack yesterday, as the Cabinet gave formal approval for a massive assault against military targets.

With Saddam Hussein remaining defiant, there was a mood of resignation in Downing Street that the diplomatic track had failed. The Secretary of State for Defence, George

BY COLIN BROWN
in London
AND ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

Robertson, spoke of the "sad inevitability" of the use of force.

Washington warned that attacks on Iraq would not be pin-point strikes. "They will be significant should they be carried out," William Cohen, the US Defense Secretary, said. In Iraq, the Deputy Prime Minister, Tariq Aziz, said he saw "no light at the end of the tunnel".

Mr Robertson briefed the Cabinet before ministers approved the use of the 12 RAF Tornado bombers in support of US air attacks, which will be led by Cruise missiles, if the Iraqi leader does not back down.

Tony Blair was engaged in diplomatic efforts to maintain unity in Europe. "The next step is action if Saddam is not prepared to come back into compliance with his word," he said.

Mr Robertson said: "There is no timescale of what will happen to Saddam but a very clear message has to go out."

Dissent came from Tam Dalyell, a Labour backbench MP, who warned that the bombing might resemble the Second World War blitz on Dresden.

Downing Street issued a dossier to MPs detailing breaches by President Saddam, including allegations that traces of nerve gas were found on warheads. "He will never give up his weapons of mass destruction, unless forced to do so," it said.

The US dispatched B-52 bombers and F-117 Stealth fighters to the region, sending a dozen of each to its military base on the British island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean.

Crucial support came from eight Arab states. "The Iraqi government will be solely responsible for all repercussions resulting from its decision to block UNSCOM," said Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates at a meeting in Doha, Qatar.

Speaker attacked, page 8
Ammar sidelined, page 15
Leading article, Review, page 3

Scientists create a cow-human hybrid

SCIENTISTS HAVE fused the nucleus of a human cell with an egg cell taken from a cow to create the world's first embryonic clone of an adult man.

The human-cow hybrid did not survive beyond a few days but it developed to the stage of a 32-cell embryo in an experiment that has far-reaching ethical implications.

An American biotechnology company, Advanced Cell Technology (ACT), based in Worcester, Massachusetts, yesterday stunned the scientific community by announcing in a press statement that it had created the hybrid embryo three years ago from the cells of one of its own scientists.

The company's aim was to generate human embryonic "stem cells", which are the vital progenitor cells of all the body's many different tissues.

"This advance, based on fusing a human somatic (non-reproductive) cell with a bovine egg cell from which the nucleus has been removed, may enable the production of an unlimited supply of such stem

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor



cells for transplant medicine," the company said.

Although it is thought unlikely that a human-cow hybrid embryo would ever be able to be implanted in a womb and develop normally, the research will raise fears that the company may be pioneering a form of human cloning.

However Michael West, ACT's president and chief executive officer, denied that the research would lead to the full cloning of an adult. "We will

not use this technology to clone human beings," he said yesterday.

The research, which has not been published in a scientific journal, was performed by Jose Cibelli, an Argentine-born scientist at the University of Massachusetts, which has a commercial link with ACT.

Dr Cibelli took 53 of his own cells - either white blood cells or skin cells from the inside of his cheek - and fused each with a cow egg. Most failed to thrive, according to a *New York Times* report, but one embryo grew and divided five times.

Dr Cibelli and his university colleague James Robl, who is well known in the area of animal cloning, have filed patents on the process with ACT controlling the commercial rights.

Asked if he was concerned about destroying 52 potential twins of himself, Dr Cibelli told *The New York Times*: "I never thought about it. But if you use your own cells to treat a disease you may have, you are not taking cells from another person selfishly."

INSIDE THIS SECTION

Carry On smuggling
A lorry load of heroin worth £7m became jammed in a tunnel
Home P3

University attacked
Vice-chancellor resigns over poor standards
Home P5

Jewish insults
Row in Moscow over general's remarks
Foreign P20

BT bonanza
The Internet has given a huge boost to BT profits
Business P21

Great Dane out
Goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel is to leave Manchester United
Sport P22

INSIDE THE REVIEW

Philip Hensher
Who needs government-sponsored role models?
Comment P4

Happy, happy chic
An exhibition of Kate Malone's groovy ceramics
Design P10

Joe Harriott
Our lost genius of jazz, Britain's Charlie Parker
Music P14

Kurt Masur
An interview with the NY Philharmonic conductor
Music P16



9 770951 948559
TODAY'S TELEVISION
PAGE 20

HOME 2-13, FOREIGN 15-20, BUSINESS 21-26, SPORT 27-32, CROSSWORD 32, WEATHER 2
LETTERS 2, LEADERS & COMMENT 3-5, OBITUARIES 6-7, FEATURES 8, SCIENCE 9, DESIGN 10, ARCHITECTURE 11, ARTS & MUSIC 12-16

Trans-Borneo Cycle Challenge

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**PAGE
FOOD & DRINK
SPECIAL**

(in with the murgh mussallam)

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO SUNDAY LUNCH?

THE BEST WRITING IS IN THE INDEPENDENT EVERY WEEK: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MCRAE, MARK STEEL, ROBERT FISK, JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, THOMAS SLITCHIFFE, MILES KINGTON, SUE ARNOLD.

PETER MANDELSON, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, stepped into the fray over media criticism last night with a warning that the public was more interested in "the real issues".

Speaking at a seminar in Madrid, Mr Mandelson said the success of the Democrats in this month's United States congressional elections proved that the Monica Lewinsky affair had no impact on the voters.

The minister, who was "outed" as a homosexual before the same fate befell Nick Brown, the Minister of Agriculture, said that the American experience should serve as an example to the British media.

In a coded attack on the press coverage of the downfall

By PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

of Ron Davies, the former secretary of state for Wales, as well as himself, he said President Bill Clinton's continuing popularity proved the voters were uninterested in such stories.

"The outcome of the US congressional elections has been seen as another *Houdini* act by the President, as yet another comeback for the Comeback Kid. That's true.

"It's also been seen as the American people ignoring scandal, and concentrating on the real issues. There is a lesson to be learnt there."

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press should be more responsible and recognise the public mood on MFIs, private banks.

Ministers have been bedeviled by polls by tabloid newspapers that claimed the public did not want to know the details of what politicians did in the privacy of their own home.

Mr Mandelson made his remarks as he addressed a seminar of the Spanish Socialist Party on Labour's vision of the Third Way between old-style socialism and an unregulated free market.

Launching a Spanish translation of Tony Blair's recent Fabian pamphlet on the subject, he said that the Democrat victory proved the far right was losing support across the globe.

"The victory for the Democrats was a victory for freedoms. Its

message to the Republicans in Congress, especially to their ex-leader Newt Gingrich was clear: The extreme right is losing."

By contrast, centre-left parties that attempted to modernise social democracy had scored repeated successes right across Europe and now governed 13 out of the 15 European Union countries.

Delivering the first analysis of the US elections by a cabinet minister, Mr Mandelson added that the only Republicans who did well were those such as George Bush Jr and Jeb Bush. "Why? Because they moved towards the centre, away from the right," he said.

Donald MacIntyre interviews 'Sun' editor David Yelland. Review Front



Designers standing by the Greenwich meridian, London, to launch the Royal Mail Millennium Collection: (l-r) 'Linking the nation' by John Lawrence; 'Liberation by bike', Sara Fanelli; 'Jet Travel', George Hardie; 'Timekeeping', David Gentleman; 'Steam power', Peter Howson; and 'Photography' by Zafer and Barbara Baran. Brian Harris

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

THE BANNING order on the Loyalist Volunteer Force, the LVF, was lifted last night by the Northern Ireland Secretary, Mo Mowlam, provoking calls for the hand-over of weapons to start soon.

Ms Mowlam said the banning order on the Loyalist paramilitary force - founded by Billy Wright who was shot dead in the Maze by the Republican Irish National Liberation Army, the INLA - was lifted on the basis of security information.

The Northern Ireland Secretary said it was too soon to lift the banning orders on three other republican groups: the Continuity IRA, which has not declared a ceasefire; the Real IRA, which was responsible for the Omagh bomb massacre; and the INLA. They have both declared ceasefires.

The LVF was involved in a spate of tit-for-tat killings last January sparked by the shooting of Billy Wright when six Catholics, not associated with terrorism, were murdered.

Ms Mowlam said: "I am now satisfied that they have established a complete and un-

She said the lifting of the ban also recognised the significant contacts that the LVF had made, via an unnamed inter-

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BRITAIN TODAY

Noon today

KEY

14 Temperature, °C

30 Wind speed, mph and direction

FORECAST

General situation Parts of eastern England may have early drizzle, but it will be generally dry and bright. North-west and central England will start cold with sunny spells, but rain in the south-west will soon move to most of England later this afternoon. Northern Ireland will also start cold and bright, but showers will soon break out. Western Scotland will have longer sunny spells and only isolated showers. Eastern Scotland will stay mainly cloudy with outbreaks of rain and drizzle.

Cent 5 & SE England, London, E Anglia: A generally dry and bright morning, but rain will arrive later this afternoon. A moderate south-west wind. Max temp 9-

LIGHTING UP				
Belfast	4.26pm	to	7.51am	
Birmingham	4.18pm	to	7.27am	
Bristol	4.24pm	to	7.26am	
Cardiff	4.24pm	to	7.56am	
London	4.15pm	to	7.16am	
Manchester	4.15pm	to	7.36am	
Newcastle	4.07pm	to	7.32am	

HIGH TIMES				
	AM	HT	PM	HT
Annemooch	2.09	10.0	2.43	10.3
Canterk	12.40	3.8	1.19	3.8
Cardiff	12.57	4.3	1.19	4.5
Dunfermline	6.26	5.5	7.18	5.5
Dees	7.33	3.5	7.48	3.8
Edinburgh	12.28	4.1	12.50	4.3
Greenock	6.26	5.2	7.54	3.2
Harwich	6.47	3.3	7.41	3.5
Holyhead	6.19	4.6	6.56	4.8
Hill (Albert Dam)	1.13	7.2	2.27	7.1
Leith	1.26	5.2	2.34	5.2
Lings Lynn	10.24	4.7	10.48	4.7
Lispeeth	6.47	7.6	7.15	7.8
Milford Haven	1.30	5.2	2.03	5.2
Newquay	12.51	5.3	10.53	5.6
Portsmouth	2.09	4.1	2.18	4.5
Portsmouth	7.18	4.1	7.44	3.9
Pewell	6.12	5.4	6.12	5.7
Scarborough			-12.18	3.8
Wick	7.06	2.9	7.19	3.0

Height measured in metres

AIR QUALITY		
Today's readings		
	NO ₂	SO ₂
London	Good	Good
S England	Good	Good
Wales	Good	Good
C England	Good	Good
Scotland	Good	Good
Wales	Good	Good

YESTERDAY			
EXTREMES			
Warmest: Matreux 12C [54F]			
Cooldest: (day): Puy-de-Lassus 9C [48F]			
Wettest: Cardiff 0.71 in			
Sunniest: West Malling 4.5 hrs			
For 24hrs to 2pm Thursday			
	Sun in	Rate in	Max °F
Aberdeen	6.5	0	10 50
Anglesey	0.5	0.01	10 50
Armagh	0.5	0.01	10 50
Belfast	0.8	0.01	9 48
Birmingham	5.3	0	10 50
Bournemouth	4.5	0.01	12 54
Bristol	5.7	0.01	12 54
Btanceu	5.6	0.05	8 46
Cardiff	2.7	0	11 52
Cardigan	7.2	0.9	9 48
Cromer	5.6	0	10 50
Edinburgh	0.1	0.01	9 48
Exeter	7.2	0.9	9 48
Falmouth	0.2	0.01	9 48
Falkenstein	8.2	0	11 52
Glasgow	0.6	0.01	9 48
Gloucester	5.7	0.02	9 48
Hove	5.9	0	11 52
Isle-of-Man	0.1	0.01	11 52
Leamington	5.2	0.01	11 52
Leeds	1.8	0.01	12 54
Leicester	1.8	0.01	12 54
Jersey	0.3	0.04	10 50
London	4.9	0.1	12 54
Larwick	4.9	0.14	8 46
Llanelwedd	5.2	0	11 52
London	4.9	0.1	12 54
Londonport	5.0	0	10 50
Manchester	4.6	0.09	9 48
Margate	5.0	0.01	11 52
Merthyr	1.9	0.04	10 50
Newcastle	5.5	0	11 52
Newquay	4.9	0.1	12 54
Nottingham	4.5	0.01	12 54
Oxford	5.4	0	11 52
Ros-on-wye	2.6	0.01	10 50
Sheff	5.7	0.01	9 46

THE WORLD

EUROPE NOON TODAY

Key
Range °C
□ 0-10°C
■ 11-20°C
■ 21-30°C
■ 31-40°C

THE ATLANTIC NOON TODAY

KEY
— 1024 — 1032 — 1040
isobars: air pressure in millibars
—▲— warm front
—▲— cold front
—▲— occluded front

LOW #1
LOW #2
LOW #3
HIGH #1
HIGH #2

21-30°C

E (40-50°): **NE England:** Some early cloud and patchy rain, then brighter before heavy rain moves in from this evening onwards. A moderate south-east wind. Max temp 8-10C (46-50F).

Middlelands, Cent N & NW England, N Wales, Lake District: Light to heavy cloud, turning to rain in late breaks out this afternoon. A light, variable wind. Max temp 5-10C (41-50F).

Channel Is, SW England, S Wales: Rain will soon spread from the south-west, turning to heavy rain in the evening. A strong south-east wind, becoming fresh north-westerly. Max temp 5-12C (41-54F).

Republic of Ireland, N Ireland: Sunny spells and showers. Longer periods of rain will spread northwards. A light and variable wind. Max temp 8-9C (46-48F).

SE England, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, N Wales: Mostly cloudy with occasional rain or drizzle. A moderate south-east wind. Max temp 7-9C (45-48F).

SW & NW Scotland, Glasgow, W Isles: Mostly dry with sunny spells and just the odd milder shower, but rain likely tonight. A light and variable wind. Max temp 7-10C (45-50F).

OUTLOOK

It will turn a little colder on Saturday with a lot of cloud and scattered showers, particularly along the southern and eastern coasts. Sunday will also be colder and drier, with a chance of a mix of sunny spells and showers, with some snow likely in the Scottish Highlands.

TRAVEL

London: A41 Finchley Rd. From works to Catford. Road closed in both directions from 10.00 to 11.00 hours.

Berkeley: M1 between J89 (Maidenhead) and J7 (Stroud). New road layout with a roundabout and a roundabout interchange during flood relief work. Until 30th November.

Kent: M20 between AJ Ashford (West) and AJ Maidstone. Roadworks in both ways on the left-hand side of the road. One lane in each direction will still be available each way at all times. Until 29th November.

Central/Amtham 11 between Alconbury and Hendon: Construction. Lane closures and diversions. Until 31st December.

Building/Highways: M40 between Juncions 1a (M25) & 3 (Wycombe East). Three narrow lane ways both ways and a major speed limit in both directions from 1st January 2001.

Bristol: M5 J16-19. A major roadworks on the left-hand side of the road from 1st January 2001.

North/A1: A74 Harwick Roundabout, Kings Lynn (A167). Roadworks between the pull-off area and the roundabout from 1st January 2001. Until 13th December 1998.

AX Roadworks: Call 09386 401777 for the latest local and national traffic news.


Source: The Automobile Association.

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N Ireland Good Good


SUN & MOON

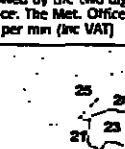
Sun rises: 07.15
Sun sets: 16.74
Moon rises: 00.55
Moon sets: 14.26
New Moon: Nov 19



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Source: The Met. Office. Calls charged at
50p per min (inc VAT)





Shrewsbury	6.4	0	11	52
Stourhead	n/a	0	11	52
Stowton	0.2	0.13	9	46
Stourage	5.3	0	12	54
Tealy	0.1	0.01	11	52
Weston-on-Avon	2.3	0	12	54
Woolmouth	n/a			

24 hours to 6pm (GMT) Wednesday:
Information by FA WeatherCentre

RAIN or SHINE

BRITISH WEATHER is so unpredictable that a Devon insurance company has launched a policy that will pay out if it rains for more than half the days of a holiday.

Visitors to Britain will be able to recover a fifth of the cost of their holiday if more than half an inch of rain falls for four days of a week-long break or eight days in a fortnight under the new policy launched yesterday by the Devon-based insurers Rothwell and Towler.

[illegible]

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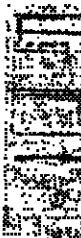
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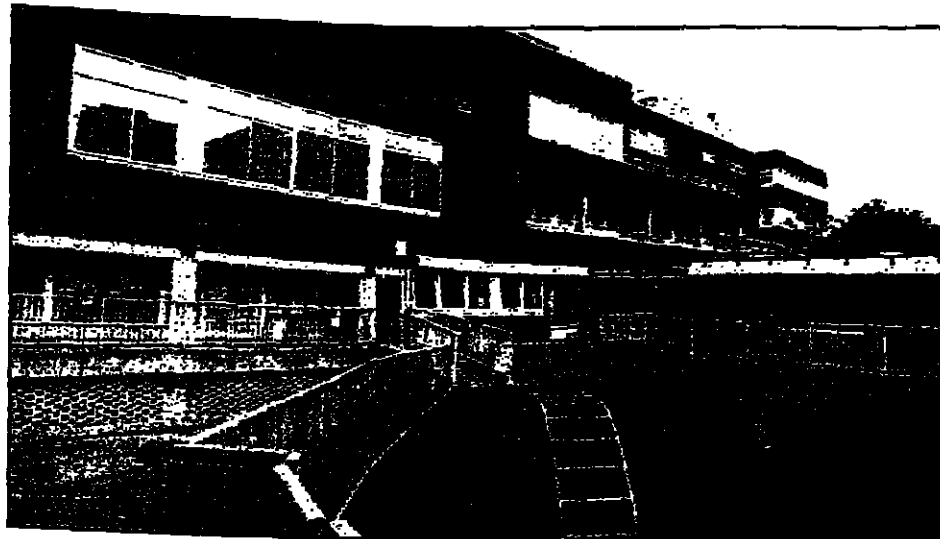
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Carry On jammed

Nursery scandal: Newcastle council publishes damning report on the childcare staff who molested their charges



Betrayal of the innocent infants by the carers they trusted

PARENTS OF children who were sexually abused while ostensibly safe in the care of a Newcastle nursery school wept yesterday as an inquiry team delivered one of the most damning reports in the history of childcare.

Children as young as two years old were taken out of the Shieldfield Nursery and used for the sexual gratification of a paedophile ring. A child told the inquiry about eating sweets while being abused, sometimes by more than one man. Another child talked of being hurt by a man with other adults present - "Neil, who had a camcorder. He was laughing," and Doreen, "who was in bed with Chris". The children were threatened that if they revealed what was happening they, or their family, would die. "A man will shoot Daddy," they told the inquiry. The scandal of multiple

BY STEPHEN GOODWIN AND PAUL LASHMAR

abuse at Shieldfield Nursery and in flats, houses and caravans beyond, came to light in 1993 after a distressed child told his mother he had been assaulted. The independent inquiry was set up by the council three years ago after the collapse of the prosecution of nursery assistants Chris Lillie, then 30, and Dawn Reed, then 23. Angry parents tried to storm the dock and shouted "Hang them" after the judge ruled that video-tape evidence from a girl alleged to have been raped by Mr Lillie was inadmissible.

A change in the law since the case has ensured that young children's evidence in court cases is now heard. Last night the Home Office argued that it was impossible to legislate to take into account evidence of very young children, but the NSPCC said "young children

must have the right to speak".

Richard Barker, the head of child and family studies at the University of Northumbria, who led the review team, said: "The challenge for the legal profession is to try and ensure that on the one hand, adults are not wrongly convicted but on the other, the general truth that emerges from the testimony of a large number of young children should be evaluated in court so that these young children get justice."

Mr Lillie and Ms Reed have not been seen since the trial - Ms Reed is thought to have changed her name and is living south of the Tyne, while Mr Lillie has left the area.

They are the main characters in the gut-wrenching 400-page report, published by the city council yesterday. But the inquiry team said it was clear others outside the nursery were involved in abusing children "for their own gratification

and probably for the production of pornographic materials. They have not been found".

The review team heard complaints from more than 40 families. Some 1,450 children came into contact with Mr Lillie and Ms Reed.

The council was condemned for a "complacent and insular approach" to the delivery of social services in the early Nineties. Two members of the city council staff have been suspended because of the report's findings. They are believed to be Peter Blythe, the childcare manager responsible for appointing the inexperienced Mr Lillie, and Susan Eyreington, the officer in charge of the nursery at the time, who is criticised for failing to monitor staff outings with children and not responding appropriately to parents' concerns.

The report said references and police checks were not adequately taken up and Mr

Blythe is "severely criticised" for the unprofessional way he appointed Mr Lillie, someone he had known since his days as a residential worker, when Mr Lillie was in care.

There is also criticism of Sir Jeremy Beecham, then leader of the city council and now chairman of the Local Government Association, whose law firm represented Mr Lillie. Stefan Cross, deputy chair of the Social Services Committee, was a member of the legal practice representing Dawn Reed. One of the report's 75 recommendations was that legal firms involving elected councillors should not accept cases which involve action against council employees over their work.

The report goes on to detail how one of the children "believed he had recognised Sir Jeremy by his voice on a television programme as being someone who had sexually abused him when Chris Lillie and Dawn Reed had taken him to unknown venues".

The allegation was reported to senior police officers and social service staff and the child was assessed by a psychologist to form a view about the strength of his evidence. There was no corroborative link between the disclosure and Sir Jeremy, and the inquiry team accepted the council leader's innocence.

"There was no organised planned conspiracy by Newcastle City Council officers and

elected members to procure children at Shieldfield Nursery for abuse, or to cover up what had happened at the nursery and elsewhere," the team concluded. "We do think that there are individuals, Chris Lillie and Dawn Reed, who did probably conspire with others unknown, but we conclude that these others were not officers or elected members of the city council."

Mr Barker called for tighter regulation of nursery workers, with the name of anyone sacked for abuse automatically going on a central list. Mr Lillie and Ms Reed are still listed by the Council for Awards in Children's Care and Education as qualified nursery nurses.

The council currently comes

across about 50 cases a week of people fraudulently claiming to be qualified.

"We believe that this national system of recording qualifications should be amended as it is currently extremely misleading and potentially dangerous," said the report.

In June the then Home Office Minister Alan Michael announced a working party would look into ways of preventing sex offenders from working with children. A part of this is likely to be a central register of people who are deemed unsuitable.

Families who came together for support after the abuse was uncovered are now considering suing the city council for negligence in its care of their children.



Shieldfield Nursery (top left) and former assistants Dawn Reed and Chris Lillie, who have been implicated by the inquiry team

Pressure made Sir Jeremy ill

SIR JEREMY Beecham was found collapsed in his car a week before his firm's client, Christopher Lillie, went on trial in 1994 to face abuse charges.

According to reports an overdose was suspected as an empty tablet bottle was found in the Renault. Passing motorists had raised the alarm and Sir Jeremy was rushed to hospital.

He is a partner in Henderson, Beecham & Peacock, a major Newcastle solicitors' practice and at the time was also the leader of the Labour-run Newcastle City Council. A leading national figure in local government, he was chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities and had just been knighted.

BY PAUL LASHMAR

The parents of the children abused by Lillie and Dawn Reed were unhappy that Lillie was being represented by a firm run by the leader of the council responsible for running the nursery school. Claire Routledge, lawyer to a group of the parents, said she wrote complaining about a possible conflict of interest. Sir Jeremy says he declared this interest "promptly" with the council.

A spokesman for Sir Jeremy said that the case had been handled by a colleague.

After his collapse in July 1994 Sir Jeremy was in hospital for three weeks, suffering from depression. In November that year he resigned as



Beecham: Depression

council leader. "It has brought it home what I had always intellectually realised, that there was tremendous pressures in local government, and it is very

difficult to do a number of jobs at the same time and I had three," he said at the time.

Sir Jeremy had been leader of Newcastle City Council for 17 years, having joined the Labour Party at the tender age of 15 in 1959. In 1967 he became councillor for Benwell, a deprived area on the north bank of the River Tyne.

In a statement issued yesterday Sir Jeremy expressed "profound sympathy" for the abused children and their families. He repeated he had "no connection with these appalling events. People in public life are particularly vulnerable to allegations made without any foundation in fact, as the inquiry team acknowledges."

Carry On Smuggling episode jammed £7m heroin in tunnel

IT WAS an attempt to carry out a serious piece of heroin trafficking. But it ended with a £7m haul of drugs stuck in the Blackwall Tunnel in a scene more akin to a Carry On movie.

As the gang's drug-filled lorry jammed against the roof in the northbound lane, their accomplices returned to see what was wrong and their car became trapped in the southbound lane.

The lorry became stuck just as the evening rush hour began, the jams spread and large areas of East London were gridlocked for several hours.

The scene was recounted at Southwark Crown Court in London yesterday. While presenting happy Customs officials with a £7.28m high-quality haul, the "cock-up" factor - as

BY KATHARINE BUTLER

the prosecution called it - had the lorry firmly blocking the entrance to one tunnel. Their accomplices' car ended up slewed across the carriage-way, jammed between a wall and a Customs surveillance vehicle.

The jury found gang leader Hamid Shamsollahi, 38, an Amsterdam-based businessman from Iran, guilty of one count of smuggling. The lorry driver, Mustafa Karimca, 50, from Istanbul, Turkey, was convicted on a similar charge.

The two men and another gang member, Turkish-born Korkut Eris, 40, a minicab driver from Hornsey Road, Holloway, north London, who admitted the charge, will be sentenced on Monday.

A fourth, Ferit Eren, 23, a

Turkish national from Edmonton, north London, was found not guilty.

The five-week trial heard that to begin with the men's meticulous planning paid off. The massive articulated lorry, bought months earlier at auction, was fitted with a false fuel tank. Inside was a secret compartment used to hide the 65.84-kilogram consignment, which Karimca is believed to have collected in Turkey.

It was so well installed that Customs officials at Dover failed to detect anything wrong when he arrived by cross-Channel ferry from Zeebrugge, Belgium, in February this year.

Confident everything was going according to plan, he then drove the lorry and its illicit load to Medway services on the M2 in Kent, where he set

ted down for the night. But Customs and Excise's National Investigation Service had been tipped off.

Then next day, Shamsollahi and Eris were followed as they drove down from London to rendezvous with Karimca. Once there, they spent the next two hours trying hard not to recognise one another in the motorway stop's Burger King.

As soon as Eren arrived, they suddenly seemed to discover they knew one another after all, and shortly afterwards left the service station in convoy.

Forty-five minutes later the mathematical impossibility of trying to fit the over-tall lorry into the 14ft 3in high Blackwall Tunnel triggered electronic warnings and the end of the gang's short but memorable criminal career.

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Lib-Lab pact: An insider warns of 'blood on the carpet' as the Liberal Democrat leader is accused of 'cosying up to Blair'

Party set to take Ashdown to task

PADDY ASHDOWN faces a showdown with his party's grassroots on Monday over the agreement he struck with Tony Blair to bring Labour and the Liberal Democrats closer together.

The Liberal Democrats ruling body, its federal executive, will give Mr Ashdown a rough ride when he appeals for its support for his decision to extend the remit of the Cabinet committee which includes senior Liberal Democrats. "There will be blood on the carpet," one insider said.

Some grassroots Liberal Democrat activists are considering a plan to call a special party conference, which they believe would reject the agreement, possibly provoking Mr Ashdown to resign.

The fears that Mr Ashdown is "cosying up" too closely to Mr Blair will be heightened by today's news that Labour's Millbank headquarters is set-

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

ting up a special "dirty tricks" unit to combat the Liberal Democrats. An internal Labour document, leaked to *The Independent*, reveals that party officials are being asked to gather "inside information" on the Liberal Democrats to be stored on the controversial Millbank computer database, called Excalibur.

Critics of Mr Ashdown's move, to forge closer links with the Government, intend to raise the document as evidence of Mr Blair's "hypocrisy" over relations with their party. "His control freaks at Millbank are out of control - now they want to snoop on us, control us and kill us off," said one senior Liberal Democrat.

Even before Labour's move was revealed, Mr Ashdown faced big problems persuading his party executive to endorse



Tony Blair during his speech at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow yesterday, in which he defended the British Union. Jeff J Mitchell

extending the work of the Cabinet committee from constitutional reform to other areas.

Donnagh McCarthy, a member of the executive, accused Mr Ashdown of breaking the party's rules by agreeing his joint statement with Mr Blair without consulting his party. "It is a betrayal of everything that Mr Ashdown ever said he stood for," said Mr McCarthy. "It is a betrayal of pluralist politics and a three-party system."

At Monday's meeting, Mr Ashdown is expected to adopt the "back me or sack me" approach he had to deploy on Wednesday night at a heated gathering of his MPs. Allies believe he will win a vote of confidence but claim that he would not lose too much sleep if he was forced to resign over the issue.

Wednesday's meeting went on for three-and-a-half hours, with many of the 37 MPs who

spoke expressing their anger about the agreement. Several complained they were being "bounced" into accepting it while others said the Liberal Democrats would be prevented from criticising government policies on health, education, welfare and Europe. "There was a lot of anger; people didn't pull their punches," one MP said.

However, Mr Ashdown gradually won round most rebels by

promising that the MPs would have to approve talks with the Government on specific policy issues. Some dissidents were reassured by his optimism that Mr Blair would endorse electoral reform.

After winning the backing of his "shadow cabinet" yesterday, Mr Ashdown sought to calm his party's nerves by putting a very different gloss on the agreement to Downing Street. He stressed that further co-op-

eration with the Government would be in "tightly defined and carefully controlled areas".

The Cabinet endorsed the new deal yesterday but Mr Blair had problems on his backbenches too. Lynne Jones, chairman of the left-wing Campaign group of MPs, said the Labour leadership's first loyalty should be to its members and MPs and it should not forge alliances without consulting them.

Labour takes fight to SNP

BY ANDREW GRICE

TONY BLAIR stepped up Labour's campaign to combat the threat from the Scottish National Party yesterday by claiming that it would damage health and other public services north of the border.

Speaking in Glasgow, the Prime Minister warned that the SNP would divide families against each other by denying Scottish citizenship to the children and grandchildren of Scots who were born outside the country.

Attacking a new SNP policy statement, Mr Blair said: "They would make children of Scots foreign in Scotland and would divide families throughout Scotland into two categories - citizens and foreigners... In an era when barriers should be coming down, nothing could make clearer the barriers that they would impose."

If the SNP took control of the Scottish Parliament in next May's elections, Mr Blair warned, the priority it would give to separatism would deny resources to public services.

"While Labour is investing in the National Health Service, the nationalists would first invest in the new apparatus of a national government," he said.

Rivals refuse to do a deal on Wales

THE BATTLE to lead Labour in the Welsh Assembly descended into rancour yesterday after the collapse of a peace deal aimed at uniting the party's leading candidates.

The gloves finally came off in the race to become Wales' first "prime minister" when party officials cancelled a meeting between the Secretary of State for Wales, Alun Michael, the backbench MP Rhodri Morgan and MEP Wayne David.

The general secretary of the Welsh Labour Party, Anita Gale, called off the meeting after Mr Morgan made clear he would not drop out of the race.

With the assembly elections less than six months away, a lengthy and potentially damaging leadership contest is now inevitable. Both sides blamed the other for the failure to reach a compromise and, in his most outspoken comments so far, Mr Michael last night attacked the "false propaganda" issued by his rival.

In a speech in Cardiff, he said

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

the idea that the cabinet post made him an "outside" candidate "devalued the contest". "I urge Labour Party members in Wales not to fall for the false propaganda about Wales versus London," he said.

The Welsh Secretary also called for a one-member, one-vote (Omov) ballot among party members as a part of an electoral college of unions, constituencies and MPs, MEPs and assembly candidates.

A special party taskforce, which will draw up the selection procedure, is today expected to back the electoral college and may include the plan to insist on a limited Omov component.

Mr Michael's supporters said that he was "incensed" by Mr Morgan's remarks that the only chance of achieving unity was if both of them pulled out of the contest.

They claimed that although the Welsh Secretary was being

perceived as the underdog in the race, an increasing number of MPs were indicating support for him.

In an indication of the bitterness of the contest ahead, the Michael camp said that some MPs were scared by Mr Morgan's "separatist" language and accused him of being too close to the nationalists, Plaid Cymru.

Llew Smith, staunch anti-devolution campaigner and MP for Blaenau Gwent, was said last night to have pledged his backing for Mr Michael.

Mr Morgan's supporters countered that he had the overwhelming support of MPs, MEPs and assembly candidates. Constituency chairmen had also backed his call for a true Omov ballot of all parts of the electoral college.

A spokeswoman for the Welsh Labour Party said that Ms Gale had rung all three candidates and concluded there was "no prospect of reaching agreement on a unity ticket".

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Labour takes fight to SNP



But it said: "... there is a question to be asked whether the admissions policy is encouraging unreasonable expectations among students who are unlikely to achieve that standard, however much support they are given."

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Dubliners call time on English stag parties

"DADDY, why are those men wearing girls' knickers on their heads?" a baffled toddler asked one Saturday afternoon. "Because they're English," came the weary reply.

Stag parties, Britain's least welcome ambassadors to Ireland, have not impressed residents and businesses in the city's fashionable Temple Bar area. Now even its bars are calling "Time gentlemen please" and have banned such events.

The ban follows estimates that the stag invasion costs the city centre almost \$60m a year in lost trade. Although the partygoers bring in revenue for hotels and pubs, business people reckon they are showing a net loss.

Stag and hen events attract around 1 per cent of the Irish capital's visitors, but deter another 13 per cent, according to a report commissioned by property owners in Temple Bar, the most popular venue for the pre-nuptial parties.

Local people have endured the motley crews for years as they lurched around the streets, sang raucously in bars,

BY ALAN MURDOCH
in Dublin

or tied one another to lamp-posts wrapped in tin foil and even more exotic attire. But now no more.

The English stag business took off after the first IRA ceasefire in 1994. Some weekends up to 25 rowdy stag and hen parties, each up to 30-strong, take over the area, driving locals to seek more civilised sanctuary.

Hotel sources spoke of other European tourists fleeing the area in horror.

Martin Keane, of the Oliver St John Gogarty bar, said: "It's not nice for children to see; it's not nice for the residents."

"Publicans in Temple Bar are concerned about the long-term picture. We want to ensure the area will remain attractive to both our local regulars and visitors to the area."

The pubs began excluding the stag/hen invasion last year so lager-laden visitors ended up coralled together in the few hostalries willing to admit them. Yesterday Temple Bar's 35 pubs confirmed they will no longer

admit stag and hen customers.

Laura Magahy, managing director of Temple Bar Properties, said: "There is now a groundswell of public opinion against the crude and offensive behaviour often associated with stag and hen parties."

"We have met every licensee-holder in the area and are delighted at the immediate action they have taken as a result of the report's findings."

"There is no reason why this problem cannot be addressed. But it needs clear leadership from the tourism industry to say this is not the kind of business we want for Dublin."

The pubs' move was welcomed by Dublin police.

Assistant Chief Commissioner James McHugh said: "The report correctly identifies the problems associated with these parties in the city of Dublin. For their part, the police will not be found wanting on the enforcement side."

Jim Ruane, president of Dublin's Chamber of Commerce, said: "This is not the type of business and behaviour the city needs."



A group of girls enjoying a hen party in Dublin's Parliament Street, but not all parties are welcome in the city

Moya Nolan

Black detective settles bias case

ONE OF Britain's most high-profile black police officers has reached an out-of-court settlement with the Metropolitan Police after a four-year race discrimination action which nearly destroyed his health.

Detective Inspector David Michael, founder member and former chairman of the Black Police Association (BPA), will join the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Paul Condon, at New Scotland Yard today to announce that the dispute has been "amicably" resolved.

It is understood the settlement includes a financial payment and a series of measures designed to improve working conditions for black officers.

The settlement, which follows a gruelling legal battle after which Det Insp Michael took a year off work with stress-related illness, comes at a time when the Met is under intense pressure to tackle racism in the force. Evidence submitted to the inquiry into the death of black teenager Stephen Lawrence has suggested that the force is "institutionally racist".

Det Insp Michael, who has served 26 years with the force and is its most experienced black officer, had claimed that, despite a series of commendations, he had never been allowed to progress to the ranks held by white colleagues. His case was backed by the Commission for Racial Equality.

In an interview with *The Independent*, Det Insp Michael said: "There has been an amicable settlement to the case and it is to my satisfaction. I am heartened that the commissioner has a full appreciation of the issues and I'm now optimistic that the rest of my time in the service will be productive and rewarding."

Det Insp Michael's willingness to speak out about racism within the ranks made him an object of suspicion in some police quarters, which dismissed the BPA as "unnecessary and divisive" when it was founded in 1994. Some colleagues - who even suggested that BPA members were working in league with opponents of the police - made his life extremely difficult.

"As chairman of the BPA, I was very outspoken about racism in the Metropolitan Police and at the same time I had an outstanding industrial tribunal action which was race-related," he said. "As I carried on my normal day-to-day police duties, investigating murders and rapes and managing CID teams, my life became very uncomfortable on a daily basis."

He has claimed he was routinely victimised because of his colour and made the target of insidious comments designed subtly to undermine his position.

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

Friction between Det Insp Michael, 44, and some colleagues reached a head when he agreed to share a platform with prominent black American lawyers at a conference called Race for Justice, held in London in 1995.

Sitting alongside Johnnie Cochran, the lawyer who represented OJ Simpson, Det Insp Michael raised the possibility that British police forces had their own versions of Mark Fuhrman, the racist officer who investigated the Simpson case.

The comments were misrepresented in newspapers as a slur on all white officers and provoked a wave of hostility particularly from the Police Federation. Det Insp Michael became even more ostracised. He says he was known as "a civil



Det Insp David Michael: "We are in a period of change"

rights spy in the camp" and "a troublemaker". After nearly three years of tension, the pressure became too much. "In the end, I did have to go off work for a year for stress," he said. "During that time I was off on long-term sick it was an extreme test of the human spirit."

Last June, he returned to work with the Organised Crime Group at New Scotland Yard. The Met had always promised to defend itself vigorously against Det Insp Michael's claims of discrimination but there was a noticeable softening in attitude as the November tribunal date loomed closer, he said.

Det Insp Michael, who was born on the Caribbean island of Dominica and came to Britain aged 10, credits the Lawrence inquiry for enlightening senior colleagues to problems which he has long railed against.

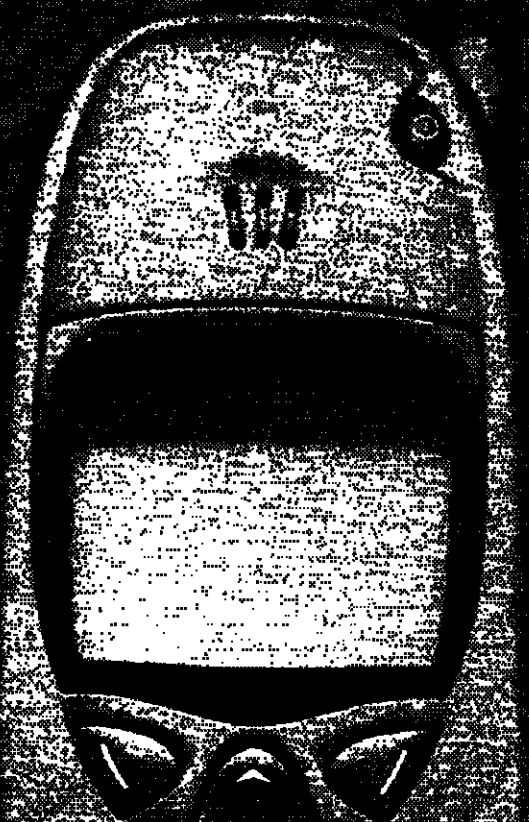
He said: "I have noticed that it has helped certain senior officers to reach a real understanding of some of the issues that I was talking about... 'Quite obviously we are in a period of change and we can look forward with optimism.'"

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Lindsay accuses critics of vile plot

HELL BATH no fury like an actor in receipt of a bad review. In the case of Robert Lindsay the fury is accompanied by pain, paranoia, outrage and soul-baring. But then he did receive a stinker

BY DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

Lindsay, who is playing Richard the Third for the Royal Shakespeare Company production of the same name, bared his increasingly tortured soul to a small gathering at Stratford-upon-Avon for a question and answer session about his career.

He used it as an opportunity to lash out at the critics, accusing them of colluding with each other in writing their reviews. He deplored the "maulings" given to Alan Rickman and Helen Mirren after their performances in the National Theatre's *Antony and Cleopatra*. He claimed such critical mailings might stop star actors doing long seasons for low pay.

Displaying a paranoia unusual even in actors, he said that his first-night audience was watching the critics rather

He told theatregoers at the question and answer session this week: "These critics have an agenda. You see them on first nights and they do collude and swap, and that's what I want to see stopped. It has got to stop. There must be a press week, where they come over a week, and not *en masse* and affect the audience as they did that night. I saw people watching the critics, because I spend most of my time talking to the audience, and no one was looking at me, what is the point?"

Lindsay, a star of TV's *GBH* and *Citizen Smith* as well as an acclaimed stage actor, used the question and answer session to assure theatergoers he had not meant what he said in a radio interview when he accused audiences of being spoilt.

But in clearing up one controversy he strode headlong

The actor Robert Lindsay in the role of Richard the Third, which some critics panned, leading him to criticise them

into another. The radio interview, he said, "was the following day after the opening night, which was an extremely emotional night for all of us. I was tired and I was a bit stressed and I had read the worst review I have ever read in my life, which was aimed at me, and I was a little bit volatile that morning, but I think a lot of

things have been taken out of proportion." The review he was referring to was by Michael Billington, *The Guardian's* critic, who wrote that Lindsay "exchanges nods, becks, and wreathed smiles with the front rows as if he were Ken Dodd playing the Palladium. Indeed, at any moment I half expected him to cry 'Hello Missus!'"

Though Lindsay also received some good reviews and audience appreciation for the production, which transfers to the Savoy Theatre, London, in January, he gave an eloquent insight into the pain felt by an actor on reading a veritable stinker. He said of the critics: "I can tell you how much they hurt, and particularly when

they're wrong. I'm just trying to say that I think it's going to get harder and harder if people don't start treating actors in this country with respect a little bit more. People won't come up and do these seasons in repertoire because the attractions are not huge." He went on: "I think actors are far more reluctant, and particularly when

people like Alan and Helen receive such mauulings in the press... I have to say.

"Some of it was so personal it made me really angry. They put their careers on the line they do. They don't need to do that, we don't need to do it. We do it because we love it."

Leading Article:
Review, page 3

LINDSAY - THE CRITICS' VIEW

"It's a performance that revels in the Machiavellian monarch's sheer outrageousness and capacity for limping rings round everybody."

– Paul Taylor
The Independent

"Indeed, with his north country vowels, shy smiles and faintly camp manner, Lindsay often put me bizarrely in mind of Alan Bennett reading the role of Eeyore on *Jack-anory*."

– Charles Spencer
The Daily Telegraph

"He catches the mockery and self-mockery, the bitterness, the aggro and, above all, the confidence of a man in absolute control of his fearsome destiny."

– Benedict Nightingale
The Times

"Lindsay is one of those actors who can command a large audience with the whites of his eyes, or a slight pursing of his mouth, and here he takes over the stage at once like a natural conqueror. [But] Lindsay's verse-speaking becomes uneven..."

– John Peter
Sunday Times

"At any moment I half expected him to cry 'Hello Missus'."

- Michael Billington
The Guardian

Futuristic V&A plan likely to be rejected

A CONTROVERSIAL design for an extension to the Victoria and Albert Museum, which has been described variously as a potential "icon like the Eiffel Tower and the Guggenheim in Bilbao" and a "spiral of crumpled boxes", appears doomed, as the project is likely to be refused planning permission.

The museum wants to sandwich a futuristic building, The Spiral, between its Victorian galleries in Kensington, but the council's planning officials recommended yesterday that permission be refused at next Monday's committee meeting. They claim the building, designed by the avant-garde architect Daniel Libeskind, is too large for the site.

The extension is part of a £75m project to provide extra gallery space at the museum, but it has attracted support and

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

opposition in equal measure ever since the design was unveiled two years ago.

The seven-storey building was designed to sit between the museum's Henry Cole Wing and the Aston Webb site in south Kensington. The architect has described it as "a geometric spiral", faced with tiles which, higher up, would give way to glass panels. Lifts would scale the building's exterior and it would house galleries and an education centre.


Sir Jocelyn Stevens, the chairman of English Heritage, said: "It will be a tragedy and a wasted opportunity if it is turned down. A building can change the whole perception of a town. The Sydney Opera House changed Australia and this building is as important."

Gwyn Miles, head of major projects at the V & A, said she was very disappointed with the council's recommendation but was confident that the museum would win any appeal. "This is a building that the V & A needs for its contemporary art, craft and design. But it will also be a centre for London and the country," she said.

But many local residents are opposed to the extension. A spokesman for the Chelsea Society said the building was deliberately designed to shock and "Exhibition Road is not the Bilbao waterfront".

Carol Seymour-Newton, of the Knightsbridge Association, said the development lacked "dignity and grace".

A spokesman for Kensington and Chelsea Council said it had received 22 letters of objection and 20 of support.



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An awful lot of beef over bananas, Bills, and pork barrels

A FEW DAYS ago, the House of Commons was assured that the armed forces were doing their bit to chew Britain out of the beef crisis. At barracks throughout the land, members were told, British beef was on the menu and steady progress was being made ethically to cleanse the outsourcing of pork products.

Yesterday, the Opposition asked the Agriculture Minister, Nick Brown, to enlist the sick and the old in this masticating campaign to save the nation's bacon. Would hospitals also be required to adjust their tenders to help the British pig industry out of its current dismal wallow? As a consumer of pig meat

himself, Mr Brown replied, he would advise all consumers to look for a Union flag before handing over their cash.

They were talking about diet in the House of Lords too, relatively innocuously at first, with a brief exchange of views about the Caribbean banana industry, currently the subject of a charitable intervention by the European Union and a very uncharitable retaliation from the United States, which has its own banana republics to defend. This was very short-sighted, suggested Baroness Williams, since the only agricultural alternative to this innocuous fruit were cash crops

that the United States government likes a great deal less: "Yes, we have no bananas" they would soon be singing to a calypso lilt, "there's only cocaine today."

The more serious dietary question, though, related to the Government's proposals to ram Millbank-approved candidates down the throats of local constituencies, by means of the feeding funnel known as the closed list system. The Lords were debating, for the fourth time, an amendment to the European Elections Bill which would replace this unpopular device with an open list alternative. There was a certain rich

THE SKETCH



THOMAS
SUTCLIFFE

irony in the spectacle of an entirely unelected chamber, many of whose members owe their presence

to accident of birth alone, taking the moral high ground in a question of electoral procedure. Indeed this paradox forms a large plank of the Government's argument in defence of its proposals. The only plank, in truth, since all the others are too rotten to display in public.

It is a mark of their embarrassment over this issue that Lord Mackay was able to make his opening speech supporting the motion, citing only Labour MPs and MEPs and an article from *The Mirror*. The closed list was a threat to the genuine independence of MPs, he suggested, who would find themselves beholden not to local constituents

but to senior party managers, who could then use their powers to bully the recalcitrant into silence.

As if to illustrate his argument Baroness Jay then tried to rule against Lord Shore, when he found himself rising from his seat at the same time as another Labour peer. But on this occasion, at least, the independent spirit prevailed, assisted by an indignant hubbub from Tory peers. This was a simple matter, Lord Shore explained, of "the electorate versus the selectorate". He would keep faith with the former. Even those who supported the Government couldn't muster a moral argument between them -

the first two speeches to urge peers to reject the amendment were at pains to point out that they thought the closed list system was quite wrong, and that only their belief in the supremacy of the elected chamber had overcome their misgivings. "How many times can we ask them to think again?" said Lord Barnett, morosely. His question was answered quite quickly, at least one more time, though that won't alter the end result.

Whips will crack in the Commons and as Lord Russell had warned earlier, the party managers will get their pork barrels. At least he can take comfort in the fact that it will be British pork that fills them.

Peers defiant over Europe candidates

THE HOUSE OF Lords was on a constitutional collision course with the Government yesterday when peers voted for the third time to extend voter choice in next year's Euro elections.

A cross-party alliance of peers defeated the Government by 237 to 194, a majority of 43, raising the prospect that it might lose the European Parliamentary Elections Bill.

Ministers are insisting on a "closed-list" system of proportional representation under which voters back parties rather than candidates, but the Lords have argued that concentrating power in the hands of the centralised party machine would be undemocratic.

The Government must now find a compromise before next Thursday's prorogation to persuade peers to end their "parliamentary ping-pong" before the session ends and the Bill is lost. It has already offered to review the system after next year's poll.

The Commons has twice reversed Lords rulings on the issue, despite strong reservations among some senior

CONSTITUTION

BY SARAH SCHAEFER

Labour backbenchers about party control over closed lists.

Earlier this week, Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, accused Tory hereditary peers of opposing the "elected will" of the Commons, indicating that it would strengthen the Government's determination to scrap their voting rights.

Summing up after a heated debate, Home Office Minister of State Lord Williams of Mostyn insisted that the Government would stand fast on the issue. "We shall use every means at our disposal to ensure that the clearly expressed will of the elected House is carried through and put into effect."

He said the House had discharged its duty as a revising chamber, not once, but twice, and should now back down. But Tory spokesman Lord MacKay of Ardrbreckish said there was still time to ask the Government to think again and to find a compromise which would accommodate its critics. Lord MacKay said the

promise of a review did not satisfy the Lords' demand for the June poll to be held on an "open-list" system.

After the historic defeat, Tory leader William Hague rejected that hereditary peers were to blame for "wrecking the Bill". "If the Government fails, don't blame the House of Lords. It is time to stop an undemocratic decision that denies the voter a choice of candidate."

Former leader of the Lords, Lord Richard, warned peers that they were threatening the constitutional relationship with the Commons.

During the debate, Labour peer Lord Shore of Stepney dismissed suggestions that this was a clash between the Commons and the Lords. "It is not democracy versus autocracy. It is about open lists against closed lists," he said.

Earl Russell, a Liberal Democrat peer, rejected Government claims that it would lose the Bill because of lack of the tight legislative schedule, saying there was still enough time for a compromise.



The actor Simon Callow (right) joins the cast of the Royal Opera House singing 'The Slaves Chorus' from Nabucco as they presented a 15,000-signature petition to Downing Street asking for more government subsidies to stop a temporary closure next year. Mark Chilvers

Corrupt MPs 'should be stripped of immunity'

CORRUPT MPs should be stripped of their immunity from facing criminal charges in the courts, a Westminster watchdog said yesterday.

Sir Gordon Downey, Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, increased pressure on the Government to change the law concerning MPs who get involved in bribery or corruption. "If, as seems likely, bribery or corruption were made a criminal offence applying to members, I believe such cases should be tried in the courts," he said.

MPs cannot be charged with criminal offences of bribery or corruption because in the past the House of Commons has taken the view that it should discipline members itself. It is also difficult to try MPs because

CORRUPTION

BY FRAN ABRAMS
Westminster Correspondent

their deeds and words in the Commons are privileged and cannot be used in a case against them. Now it seems the Government may have to reform the system.

A committee headed by Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead is due to report on the issue in the new year. A further, broader offence of "misuse of public office" has also been mooted.

In a report marking his retirement after three years in the job, Sir Gordon said the current system could fall foul of new human rights legislation because it does not allow MPs representation or a right of appeal. A committee of MPs can

censure a member, require an apology, impose a suspension or even expel him in severe cases without redress. MPs who have been disciplined could take the Government to the European Court of Human Rights under the new Human Rights Act.

Sir Gordon added that an independent, non-political panel should be set up to deal with appeals from the internal disciplinary procedures.

Last year Ann Widdecombe, now Conservative health spokesman, resigned from the Standards and Privileges Committee because she felt the former Tory MP Neil Hamilton had been unfairly treated.

Sir Gordon found that Mr Hamilton had taken cash from Mohamed Al Fayed in return

for lobbying services - a charge which Mr Hamilton strongly denied. He was not able to appeal against the decision. Yesterday Miss Widdecombe welcomed Sir Gordon's call for change.

"I think it is iniquitous that there is no right of appeal to an independent body at the moment, and Neil Hamilton was caught in that trap. I know of no other court in the land where you don't have an appeal," she said. She also welcomed the move to introduce a new criminal offence.

However, Sir Gordon's report said the case against Mr Hamilton had been proved.

"The findings were supported by evidence," he wrote. "Without additional evidence there were no grounds for a further appeal."

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Under-age vice

THE GOVERNMENT will keep firm its powers to prosecute people under 16 for prostitution offences, the Solicitor-General said during questions.

Naval interests

THE ROYAL Navy will set up a new association for the service's families to look after their interests, Doug Henderson, the Armed Forces Minister, told the Commons.

Euro option

BY AUTUMN 2000 the Government will make available the option for payments of market support measures in euros which would cover payments such as export refunds and intervention payments, Nick Brown, Agriculture Minister, said.

Speaker attacked over threat to Iraq

THE SPEAKER, Betty Boothroyd, was criticised by Tam Dalyell, the Labour MP for refusing to allow an emergency Commons statement on Iraq before the threat of British and US forces going into action.

The veteran Labour backbencher, who recently returned from Baghdad, protested that the Speaker had allowed an emergency statement to be made on scare stories about CJD but she had turned down his request for a minister to make a statement on possible attacks on Iraq.

Mr Dalyell's colleague, Tony Benn, accused the Government of by-passing the supremacy of Parliament by endorsing, in Cabinet, the use of force against Baghdad without referring it to the Commons.

Mr Benn also led protests by furious Labour backbenchers over talks with the Liberal Democrats on wider cooperation, and accused the Prime Minister of "side-lining" Parliament. "The relations between two political parties in this House

are not a private matter between two leaders, but concern the relationship between the legislature and the executive," said Mr Benn. He asked whether Labour MPs would be able to table Parliamentary questions to Mr Ashdown as they did to the Prime Minister.

Gordon Prentice, the Labour MP for Pendle, angrily told Margaret Beckett, the Leader of the House, that there had been no discussions about the Lib-Lab pact within the Parliamentary Labour Party.

Mr Prentice said: "I take it as a great relief that there are going to be no appointments of Liberal Democrats to Cabinet sub-committees."

Mrs Beckett replied: "The fact is, it is sensible and mature politics to take forward ideas with those where there is common ground (but) there are very many issues where we do, indeed, disagree."

THE HOUSE



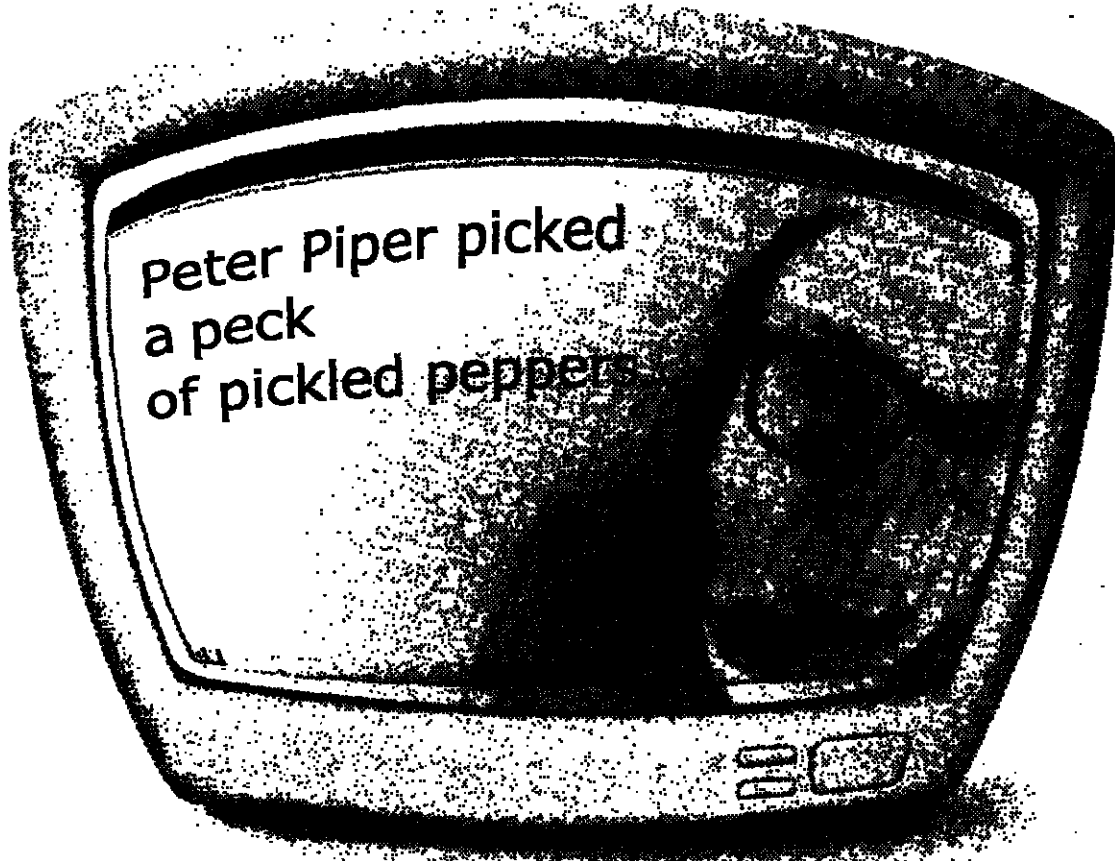
Food safety

THERE HAS not been any "backdoor pressure" from the food industry to shelve plans for an independent Food Standards Agency, the deputy Agriculture minister, Jeff Rooker, insisted.

Today

Lords: Civil Procedure (Modification of Enactments) Order; Legal Advice and Assistance (Scope) (Amendment) Regulations; Education (Grammar School Ballots) Regulations; Social Security (New Deal Pilot) Regulations; Contracting Out (Functions in Relation to Insurance) Order; Meat and Livestock Commission Levy (Variation) Scheme (Confirmation) Order.

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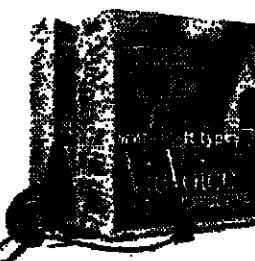
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Grammar school ballots 'are unfair'

PARENTS FROM the poorest and smallest schools will be disenfranchised in ballots on the future of grammar schools, according to new evidence.

Local authorities argue that new rules giving parents a vote on the 166 remaining grammar schools to be debated in the House of Lords today are unfair and undemocratic.

Anti-selection campaigners say the rules are "either a cock-up or a conspiracy to en-

sure grammar schools continue". Ministers say they are the only way to resolve a highly contentious issue.

In areas where there are just one or two grammar schools and the majority of children go to comprehensives, only parents at schools that have sent at least five children there over the past three years will receive

votes. All parents in places where there is a network of grammar schools will have votes.

A survey carried out for Calderdale council reveals that parents at 26 of the 83 schools would have no vote, including half Halifax's Asian primary school parents and two-thirds of those from schools that serve The Ridings comprehensive, the former failing school.

By contrast, parents from

two private schools and two schools outside the area would have a say. David Helliwell, a businessman and former Labour councillor who carried out the survey, examined how many children had been admitted to the two grammar schools from each primary school in the past three years.

"This is not about education, it is about democracy and a drift to a new fascism," he said. "I am a Labour Party member but

the Government is disenfranchising the very people it is supposed to represent. Asians and poor whites are left out while middle-class dissenters from state education along with parents from pushy schools elsewhere are included."

He pointed out that as many as one-fifth of children at the discredited schools were taking the entrance test for the grammar schools though few were successful. In its sub-

mission to the Government, Cumbria County Council argues that parents in the smallest primary schools will be disenfranchised because they have only two or three pupils in each year group. "This is illogical," it says.

David Williams, the council's deputy director of education, said: "The grammar school in Penrith has the largest catchment area in England. Five or six of the 20 primary schools it

serves have only 20 or 30 pupils. They are clearly feeder schools but it is quite possible their parents won't have a vote."

A spokeswoman for the Department for Education said there was no question of the rules being designed to help either supporters or opponents of grammar schools.

"There are strong views on both sides," she said. "We had to reach a conclusion which we felt was the most workable,

consistent and fair. We are trying to give parents choices where this is at all possible."

Baroness Blatch, the Conservatives' education spokeswoman in the Lords, said she feared that all grammar schools were in danger.

"There is absolutely no logic in the voting arrangements," she said. "Parents of children in grammar schools should have a vote as well as those in feeder schools."



Fish-eating dinosaur discovered

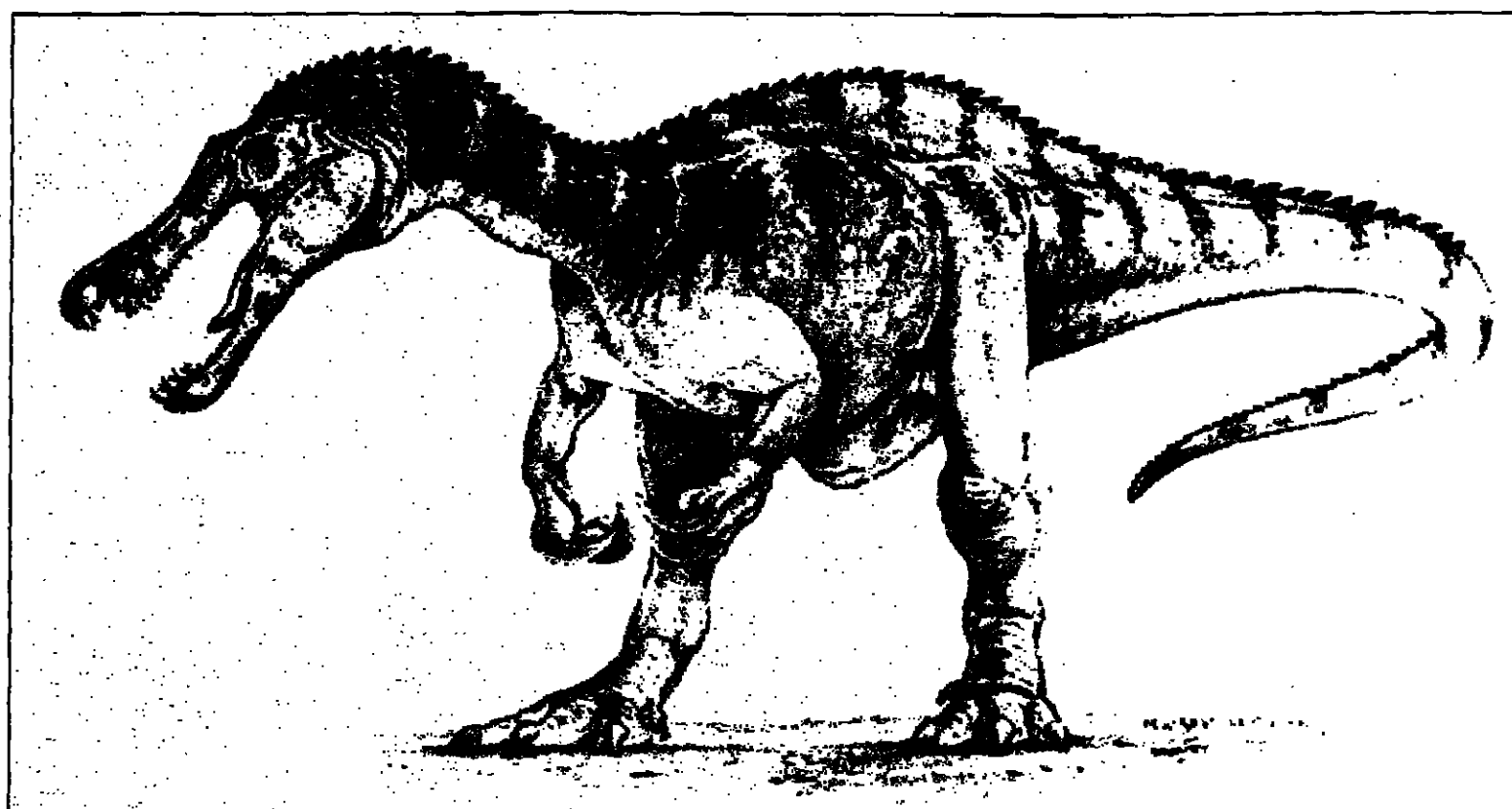
SCIENTISTS HAVE discovered a species of dinosaur that was armed with a pair of thumb claws the size and shape of giant meathooks. It was one of the largest carnivores to stalk the land.

An almost complete skeleton of the fish-eating dinosaur has been found in fossil beds of the Tenere Desert in central Niger. The fossil shows the living animal must have rivalled the largest carnivore, *Tyrannosaurus rex*, in size and ferocity. The new species is identified as a member of a group of piscivores, the spinosaurids, which had long, nar-

row jaws studded with cone-shaped teeth and a sail-like fin running down their backs.

Suchomimus tenerensis, named after its crocodile-like skull and the place where it was found, stood on its hind legs and was about 36ft long. An average-sized man would have stood at the level of the dinosaur's thigh.

A narrow snout might have allowed the dinosaur to swim faster through water and its pointed, cone-shaped teeth would have enabled it to pierce



The dinosaur skeleton, armed with thumb claws (above), which was unearthed in Niger (top left) George Steinmetz/National Geographic Society

and grasp its prey rather than slice it - just as a crocodile's teeth are for holding rather than chewing and killing.

Oliver Rauhut, a postgraduate student from the University of Bristol who was part of the research team, said: "We don't really know how it lived, but the suggestion is that it ate fish, which is very possible."

"The largest claw we found measured 14in along the outer

curve. They look like very nice weapons, and the fore limbs are very strong. They're just too powerful for fishing. It's possible they were used for hunting slightly larger prey or slicing up carcasses."

The team leader, Paul Sereno, a paleontologist at the University of Chicago, who describes the dinosaur in this week's *Science* journal, said the discovery is one of the most sig-

nificant in the work leading to understanding how dinosaurs spread around the world.

The dinosaur was found in a region that was covered by swampy forests in the Cretaceous period, about 120 million years ago, when Africa and South America were merged in a single continent, Gondwanaland, separated from a giant northern continent, Laurasia, by the ancient Tethyan seaway.

"We had been looking for really excellent fossils, not just of dinosaurs but of other organisms as well. This finding will add significant information to the idea that there was traffic across the Tethys seaway during the Cretaceous period. We are trying to understand evolution in a fragmenting world," Professor Sereno said.

Spinosaurids are members of the same two-legged family

of dinosaurs, the theropods, that included *Velociraptor* and *T. rex*. One of its closest relatives was *Baryonyx*, a fish-eating dinosaur living in the region that is now northern Europe.

Suchomimus appears to be more closely related to *Baryonyx* than to its southern spinosaurid found in Egypt and Brazil, suggesting there may have been mass movement of dinosaurs from the north to the south.

Prisoner appeals in fight for baby

BY LOUISE JURY

A WOMAN inmate was unfairly and unlawfully denied a place in a special prison unit for mothers and babies, a court heard yesterday.

In a test case for female prisoners with babies, Richard Gordon QC told the Court of Appeal in London the interests of the child had been totally forgotten when the ban was made.

If the prison's ruling is upheld, the mother and newborn child will be separated when they leave hospital and return to Holloway Prison in London.

Mr Gordon said the prison's criteria and procedures for admission to the mother and baby unit represented a "complete misunderstanding of the Children Act" and were unlawful.

The 24-year-old mother, a university undergraduate who cannot be named for legal reasons, gave birth in hospital last week as lawyers launched their fight to challenge the ban, which was recommended by an admissions board and approved by the prison governor, Mike Sheldrick. At a judicial review into the decision yesterday, Mr Gordon said the mother, who is serving five years, was denied a fair hearing before the board.

The case continues.

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Climate conference: Scientists tell how high sea temperatures are literally cooking life in delicate eco-systems

World's coral reefs dying in the heat

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY
Environment Correspondent
in Buenos Aires

VAST SWATHS of the world's coral reefs, vital for fishing and tourism, have been killed by the unprecedented high temperatures of 1998, the hottest year on record, it was revealed yesterday.

In the Indian Ocean, the western Pacific around the Philippines and Indonesia, and the eastern Pacific around the Galapagos Islands, most of the corals have died, leading coral reef scientists announced.

All areas of the world except the central Pacific had been affected, they said, and in many places more than 90 per cent of the corals had been killed, by sea temperatures up to 2.4C hotter than normal. The Caribbean is being affected at the moment.

"Reefs are living at the edge of being cooked," said Don McAllister, a Canadian coral scientist with the World Conservation Union, the international umbrella body for wildlife.

"In almost every region of the world, 1998 got too hot for corals to live normally," said Dr Thomas Goreau, an American scientist who heads the main international network reporting on coral reef conditions.

"All previous human-induced coral reef destruction pales beside what temperature has done this year."

It was an unprecedented natural disaster, he said. "This year temperature has killed more corals than anything has ever done. The world's reefs will only be saved if global warming is stopped cold, now. Not in 10 years, but now."

If it happens, the disappearance of coral reefs will be the first catastrophic global impact of climate change.

Coral reefs form the world's richest ecosystem. They also underpin tourism, in more than 100 countries, thought to be worth \$500bn (£300bn) a year, providing their wildlife, coastal protection and all the soft white sand of tropical beaches.

The death of unprecedented quantities of coral was announced at the world conservation union in Buenos Aires, where ministers from 180 countries, including Britain, are



A scuba diver swimming among the soft coral 'Dendronephthya'; coral reefs form the Earth's richest ecosystems, but many are dying. Gary Bell/Planet Earth Pictures

trying to take forward last year's Kyoto Treaty on climate change.

The corals have been killed by bleaching - a process in which they turn white when high temperatures drive out the

microscopic algae that provide food for the coral animals, and give them their colour.

Corals can survive only short periods of bleaching and in many areas of the world it had proved fatal, Dr Goreau

said. New analyses of satellite measurements of sea-surface temperatures had shown that corals begin to die if temperatures rise just one degree Celsius above normal for two months, or two degrees for

one month, and this had been exceeded in huge areas of the world this year.

The Indian Ocean was the worst hit, with most of its corals dying.

"We have lost reefs before,

but never a whole ocean," Dr McAllister said.

The Red Sea and the Gulf had suffered badly, as had all of South-east Asia from Vietnam down through the Philippines to Indonesia, although Aus-

tralia's Great Barrier Reef had escaped the worst effects.

Northern hemisphere coral reefs such as those in the Caribbean are being affected at the moment. "Coral reefs are the most sensitive ecosystem of all to temperature increase. They are like the canary in the mine," Dr Goreau said.

"They are the first ecosystem that will go and right now they can't take any - any - more warming."

This year is already certain to be the hottest in the official 150-year global temperature record. But British scientists, who, as revealed in *The Independent* two weeks ago, have reconstructed the temperature peaks of the last millennium, believe it will be the hottest for 1,000 years.

Leading article, Review, page 3

Opec's giants demand pay-back

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY

OIL-EXPORTING countries appealed yesterday to be compensated if the world burns less of their fuel in the fight against global warming.

The move by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Venezuela angered delegates and environmentalists at the conference in Buenos Aires that is trying to take forward last year's Kyoto agreement on climate change.

Ministers from more than 150 countries began a three-day negotiating session to draw up the rules under which the industrialised world can meet its various targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and to find ways in which poorer, developing countries can be brought into the process.

America, the world's biggest emitter of the gases, wants to meet its target largely by buying up "pollution surpluses" from other countries. Poorer nations have said they will not join the process; the US has said it will not ratify the Kyoto treaty until the poorer countries give commitments of their own.

The Opec nations insisted that compensation planned for poorer nations for climate change impacts, such as sea level rise and droughts, should be widened to include their own potential loss of revenue.

In particular they sought their own share of a new green fund, the Clean Development Mechanism, which will enable rich countries to help poorer ones with energy-efficiency projects, and then take credit for the greenhouse gas emissions that have been saved.

Developing countries who might benefit from the fund were angered by the Opec move. Edward Lowassa, Tanzania's environment and poverty alleviation minister, denounced it as "economic warfare".

A WORLD OF RICHES FROM CORALS UNDER THE SEA

■ Corals grow in the Indian Ocean, the western Pacific around the Philippines and Indonesia and the eastern Pacific around the Galapagos Islands

■ They form the sea's richest ecosystem, holding 25 per cent of the world's marine fish species in less than 0.3 per cent of the ocean's area. They are

thought to provide more than 10 per cent of the world's annual fish catch of 89 million tonnes.

■ From 0.3 per cent of the ocean's surface they officially provide six million tonnes of the world's annual 89-million-tonne fish catch, and the true total could be over 10 million tonnes.

■ Corals are 80 times richer in fish than the rest of the sea and the total number of known species of fish, animals, plants and micro organisms they contain is 93,000. There may be a million species unknown to science.

■ The reefs give employment to between nine and ten million small-

scale fishermen, but are also important for the tourist industry of more than 100 countries, estimated to be worth \$500bn.

■ The main causes of death are sewage dumped in the sea, sediment caused by deforestation, or overheating. Corals "bleach" under heat stress - they

turn white as the microscopic algae that provide their food and pink colouring are expelled. They are alive but starving. If the bleaching continues for any length of time, they die.

■ In many places, 90 per cent of corals have been killed by temperatures of up to 2.4C hotter than usual.

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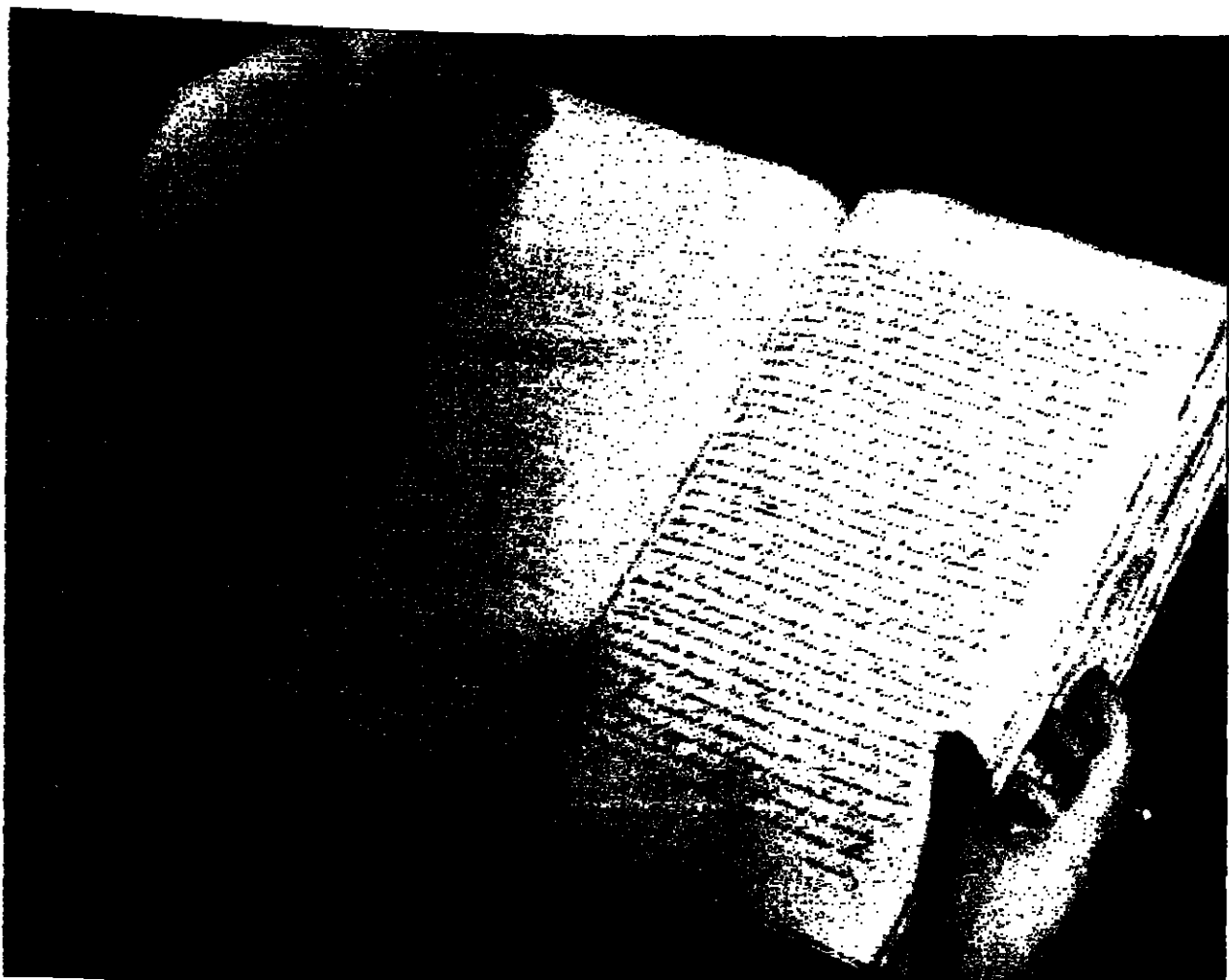
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The 18th-century journal in which Harrison documented his battle with the Board of Longitude Neville Elder

Now even the rail timetable is late

THOUSANDS of train passengers are unable to book their journeys over Christmas and the new year because of the failure of the rail industry to bring out festive schedules in time.

Railtrack and the 25 passenger train companies face the threat of a fine from the Office of the Rail Regulator unless they sort out the timetables within two weeks. John Swift, the Regulator, said they had breached their contractual duty to publish schedules in time.

He has written to them demanding a report on the state of readiness and if they have not solved the problem by 25 November, Mr Swift said he would consider taking further regulatory action. It would probably mean fines.

Train operators are committed to providing train times 12 weeks ahead. There are now six weeks until Christmas Day.

BY PHILIP THORNTON
Transport Correspondent

"The position has been reached where customers on many important routes cannot plan or book their travel arrangements over Christmas," Mr Swift said. "This is unacceptable to me both because passengers are not receiving the service they are entitled to expect and because it may discourage them from using the railway altogether."

The problem relates to heavy maintenance work often carried out at quiet periods, such as Bank Holidays, which means trains have to be re-routed or rescheduled. Mr Swift was monitoring the way that Railtrack and the train firms were dealing with the problem but decided to intervene after he realised the situation was getting worse.

A spokesman for Railtrack said: "There certainly have been some problems in supplying all the information about Christmas services. This is due to the very intensive programme of heavy engineering work planned to take place over Christmas. Long-distance journeys have been sorted out, and it is only a very small amount of local journeys that we are still working on."

Yesterday's warning from the Rail Regulator came as a feud was growing between Railtrack and the train companies over who was to blame for this year's poor performance.

Mr Swift has publicly rebuked Railtrack for its claim that the only way to improve punctuality was to run fewer trains.

Railtrack also said that the train companies had no incentive to run trains well, only to

run more of them. This week the train companies fought back with Thameslink accusing Railtrack of "pontificating", while Chiltern accused Railtrack of not providing enough capacity as it revealed plans to cut a tenth of its peak timetable.

Railtrack, the train firms and the regulators have been called in for a "summit" meeting with John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, on 26 November over the dismal state of the railways.

Railtrack and two subcontracting companies - GT Railway Maintenance Ltd of Borehamwood, Hertfordshire, and Jarvis Fastline of Watton At Stone, Hertford - are to be prosecuted by the Health and Safety Executive after the alleged mis-routing of a high-speed train on to the wrong track at Kenilworth, Warwickshire, on 23 June 1997.

For sale: Life and times of 'Longitude' clockmaker

EVER SINCE Dava Sobel wrote her best-selling novel *Longitude*, readers have been fascinated by the struggles of the Yorkshire horologist John Harrison to convince the Board of Longitude he had solved the greatest scientific problem of his age.

His efforts to develop a clock that would keep precise time at sea, something no clock had ever been able to do on land, are well documented from the minutes of meetings between Harrison and the board. But the clockmaker's own account of what happened has never been heard. Now his diary is to be auctioned by Sotheby's on 17 December and is expected to fetch upwards of £150,000.

Peter Beal, of Sotheby's, said the diary unquestionably belonged to Harrison: "This is his story in his own words, which has never been published before. It is a formal record of how he deserved the prize and of everything he went through."

The quest for a solution to the problems of longitude occupied scientists for almost two centuries. Lacking the ability to measure longitude meant that sailors were literally lost at sea as soon as they lost sight of land. In 1714, Parliament offered £20,000 to anyone who could solve the problem and the race, which attracted scientists across Europe, was on.

Harrison invented a clock that would keep the precise time at sea so that sailors could compare the time in Greenwich with the position of the midday sun and thus plot their position.

But his efforts to claim the prize were frustrated at every turn and he made several enemies on the board. The journal, penned by Harrison's lawyer, Walter Williams, and annotated

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

by his son William, (Harrison could not write) tells of the often acrimonious meetings.

After one such meeting, the diary recorded: "The Doctor [James Bradley, Astronomer Royal] seemed very much out of temper and in the greatest passion told Mr Harrison that if it had not been for him and his plaguey Watch Mr [Tobias] Mayer and he should have



John Harrison: Denied proper recognition

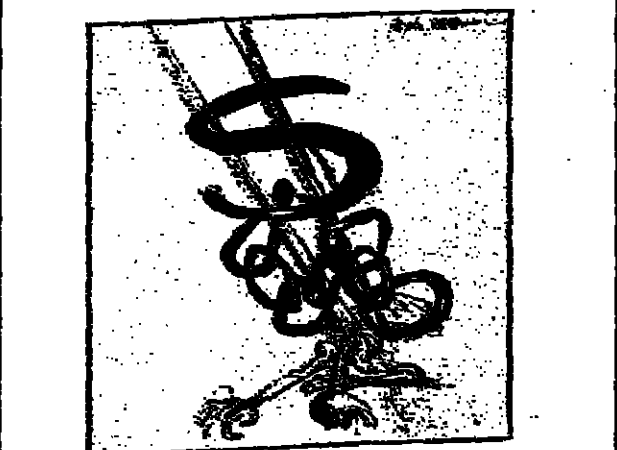
shared the Ten thousand pounds before now..."

After one trial of his final timepiece, H4, which lost less than two minutes in five months at sea, Harrison should have been able to claim his prize. But the board continued to question him. He stormed out of one meeting declaring "so long as he had a drop of English blood in his body he would not comply with their Resolutions without they would explain them".

Harrison was eventually granted the prizemoney in instalments but was never acknowledged as the winner. His diary remained in the family until 1900. It surfaced nearly 70 years later and has since been in private ownership.

THE RIGHTS OF EVERY MAN

'The Independent' is publishing daily each of the 30 Articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, illustrated by Ralph Steadman, to mark its 50th anniversary on 10 December.



Article 8

Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

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SOMETIMES
IT'S EASIER
TO TALK
TO SOMEONE
YOU
DON'T LIKE.

PHOTOGRAPH BY EDWARD STILES



If you tell your
girlfriend,
will she think
less of you?

A REGISTERED CHARITY

When you have a problem, it's the most natural thing in the world to want to talk it through with someone.

Sometimes, though, this creates another problem: who's the best person to confide in?

An obvious choice would be a close friend. But let's face it, we don't always choose our friends for their amazing powers of tact, diplomacy and discretion. Tell one person, and you may end up telling the world.

You may be lucky enough to be able to talk to someone in your family. Then again, you may be one of the large number of people who find talking to your nearest and dearest agonisingly embarrassing.

A girlfriend or boyfriend? If you can, great. But sometimes we don't want to expose our weaknesses to those who fancy us.

And sometimes your relationship is the very problem you want to discuss.

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UN chief sidelined in new stand-off with Iraq

Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary-General, cut short his trip to northern Africa yesterday and boarded a plane. It was crisis time again, with the United States and Britain once more on the brink of blitzing Iraq with missiles and bombs. But Mr Annan was not bound for Baghdad. He went home.

He literally went home, to his apartment in the upmarket Sutton Place neighbourhood of Manhattan, not to UN headquarters. Because this time, the Secretary-General is firmly on the sidelines. How different to February, when he dashed to Baghdad for the chat with President Saddam Hussein that bought the world a reprieve. There is a tedium to this cycle of stand-offs with Saddam. But since February, the picture has changed. The way it looked last night, any notion of the world's diplomat-in-chief returning to the banks of the Tigris looked unlikely. The diplomatic door for the US strike is wide open - if it wants to. It is not clear whether the weapons inspections conducted by the UN inspectors, Unscow, will ever resume, or if Washington even wants them to.

The pivotal moment came on 31 October, the day that Saddam announced he was suspending all further co-operation with Unscow, whose work had been at a virtual standstill for weeks anyway. This had a crucial effect: it annoyed even the friends of Baghdad. For the first time probably in years, a degree of unity was established in the UN Security Council. Even Russia

BY DAVID USBORNE
in New York

conceded that Saddam had gone too far.

The depth of that unity should not be overstated. If the bombs fly, watch for Russia, China and even France to pronounce their dismay. But right now, nobody in the council is standing up for Saddam. That removes a huge obstacle for the US and Britain as they ponder strikes.

How, since last February, have we arrived at this point? A case can be made - and is made by some US officials - that the fluctuations in policy towards Iraq in Washington were carefully calculated to arrive at this point. This is the argument that Clinton has been working a "rope-a-dope" approach to Saddam. In other words, Washington allowed Unscow's work to deteriorate. It bided its time, aware that there was no unity

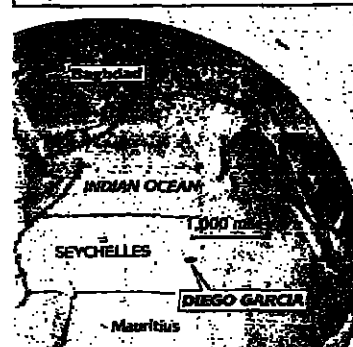
US FORCES EN ROUTE

TO THE GULF

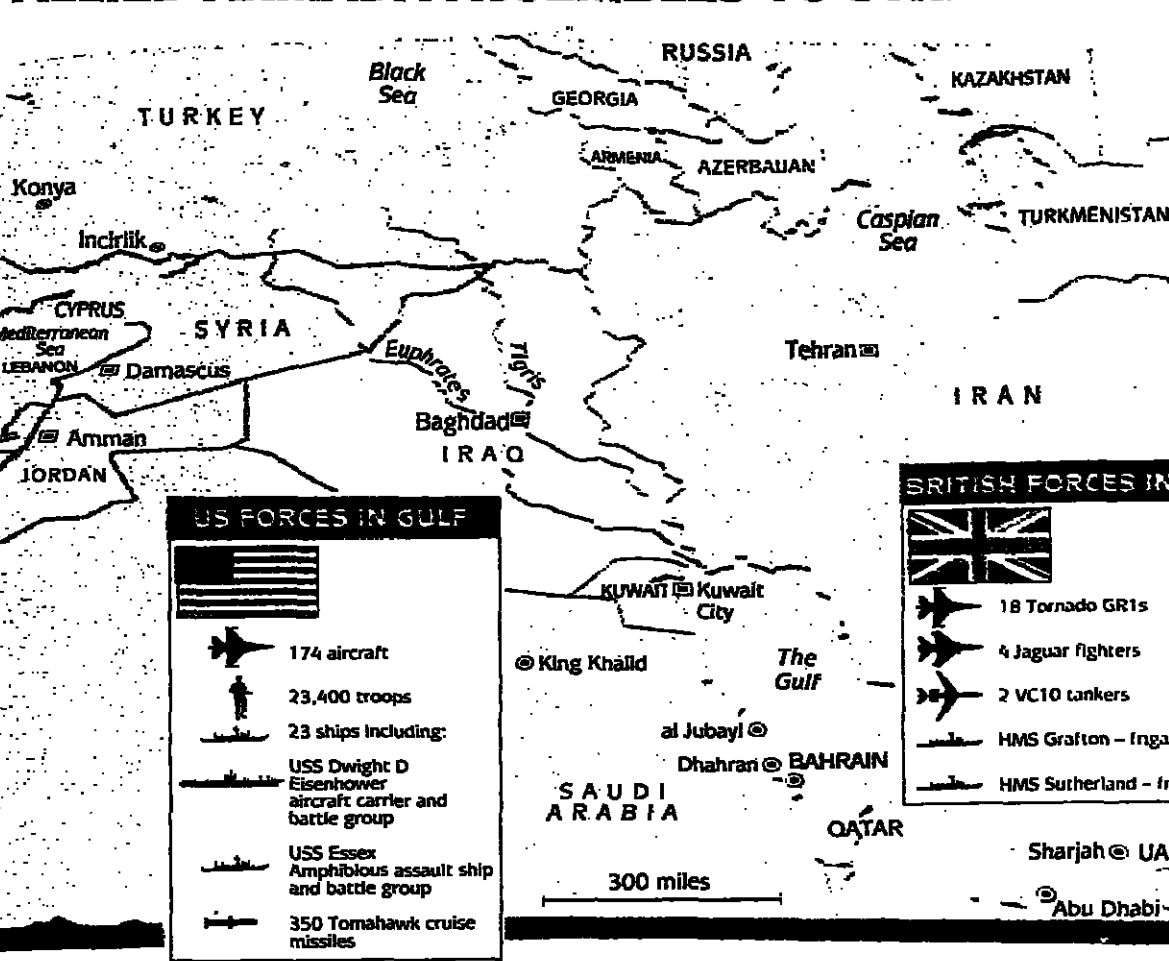
- 129 Warplanes including 6 B-1 heavy bombers
- 3,000 troops
- USS Enterprise aircraft carrier and battle group
- USS Belleau Wood Amphibious assault ship and battle group
- USS Anzio
- 96 Tomahawk Cruise missiles
- 2 Patriot anti-missile batteries

TO DIEGO GARCIA

- 12 B-52 bombers
- 12 F-117A 'stealth' fighters



ALLIED ARMADA ASSEMBLES TO STRIKE IRAQ



IRAQI FORCES

- 375,000 men serve in the army including:
- 15,000 Presidential Guard
- 7-8 divisions of Republican Guard
- 20,000 Fedayeen paramilitary force
- 350 aircraft
- 2,000 tanks
- 1,000 armoured fighting vehicles
- 2,000 artillery pieces

US FORCES IN GULF

- 174 aircraft
- 23,400 troops
- 23 ships including:
- USS Dwight D Eisenhower aircraft carrier and battle group
- USS Essex Amphibious assault ship and battle group
- 350 Tomahawk cruise missiles

BRITISH FORCES IN GULF

- 18 Tornado GR1s
- 4 Jaguar fighters
- 2 VC10 tankers
- HMS Grafton - frigate
- HMS Sutherland - frigate

Labour dossier on gas threat is misleading

EVEN BY the standards of the First World War it is crude propaganda. A briefing dossier produced by Downing Street entitled Iraq's Weapons of Mass Destruction was issued to Labour MPs yesterday.

The paper is a curious mixture of understatement and exaggeration, whichever seems politically convenient. It states: "Chemical weapons casualties from the Iran-Iraq war number more than twenty thousand."

In fact 50,000 Iranians are still being treated for mustard gas poisoning.

The understatement may stem from the fact that Britain broadly supported Iraq in its war against Iran. The Iraqis were schooled in the use of poison gas against the Kurds by the RAF in the 1920s and its deployment was recommended by T E Lawrence.

The dossier says Iraq is

BY PATRICK COCKBURN

"capable of regenerating a CW (Chemical warfare) capability within months." This is true, but a small Japanese religious sect was also able to produce sarin gas, which was dispersed in the Tokyo metro system. Unmentioned in the document is the fact that Iraq had a large arsenal of weapons of mass destruction during the Gulf War, which it did not use.

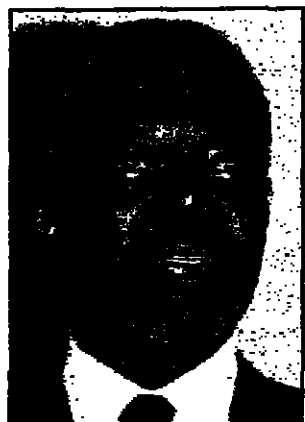
There is a frightening paragraph about Iraq's nuclear programme. It says Iraq could build a crude air-delivered nuclear device "in about five years". But it adds that this would only happen if Iraq were "to procure the necessary materials abroad". By this standard Samoa and Iceland also pose a nuclear threat.

The dossier is misleading and calculated to deceive because it does not explain that

simpler poison gases, such as mustard, are not hard to make. Britain had few problems in imitating Germany in manufacturing it after it was first used in the Battle of Ypres in 1916.

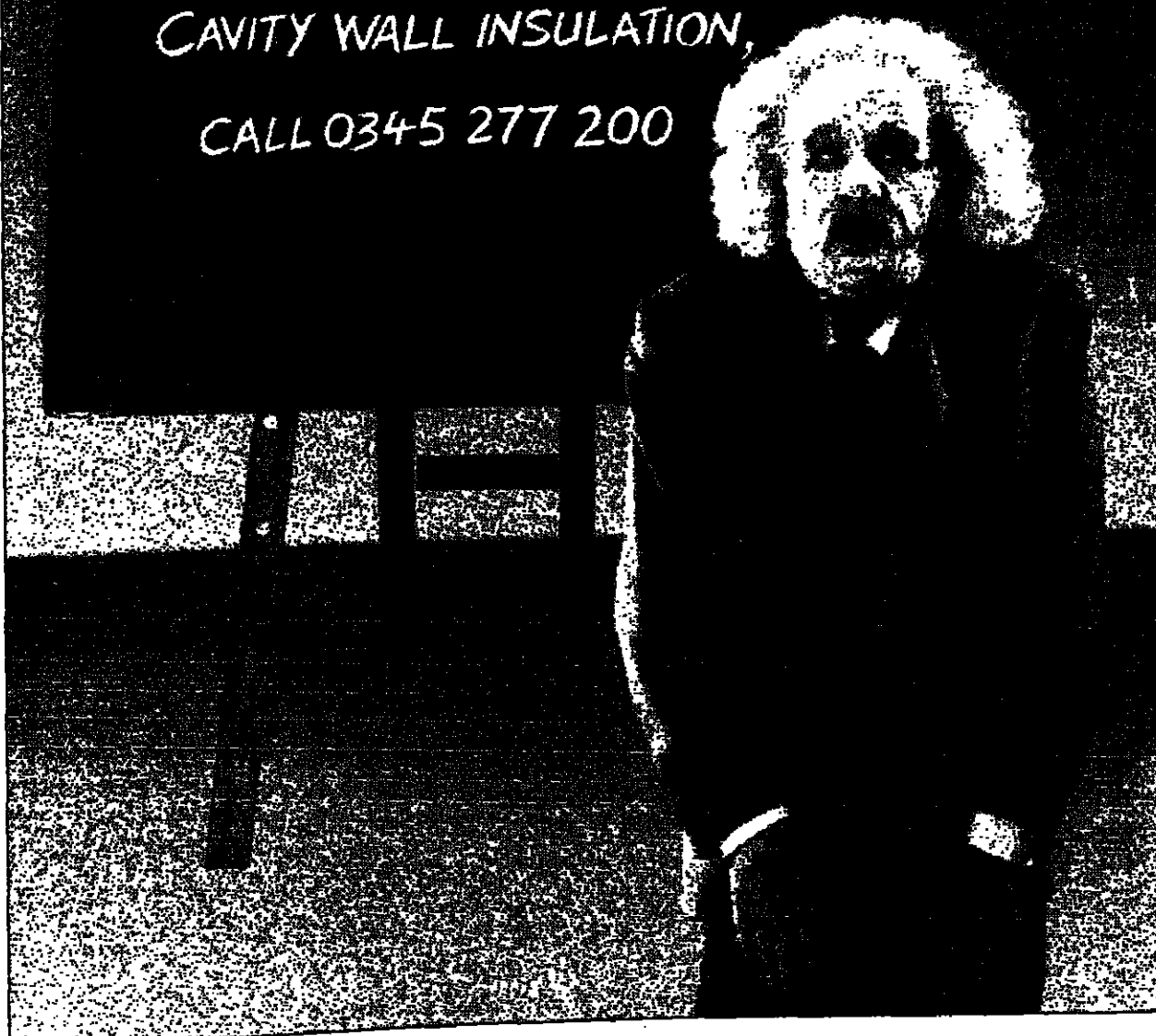
The document also glosses over the point that the real difficulty in gas warfare is delivering the weapon to the target in a lethal form. References to "3,000 tonnes of precursor chemicals" have little meaning. Every large army in the world has enough bullets to wipe out the world's population, but the real point is delivery.

The paper says Saddam will rebuild his weapons of mass destruction unless he is stopped, but Unscow has been unable to find them and air strikes would bring us no nearer to destroying them. This could only be done by the military occupation of Iraq, which the government is not proposing.



Kofi Annan (left) whose talks earned Saddam a reprieve

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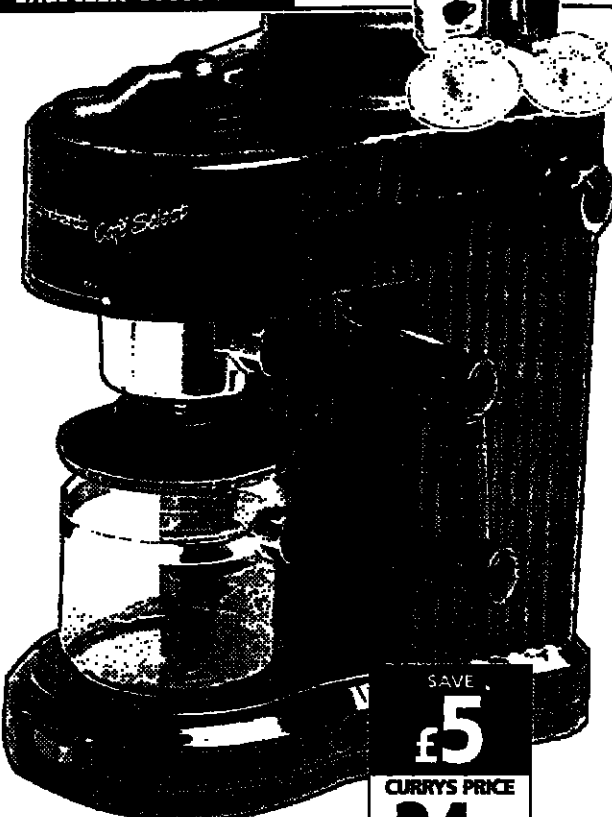
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Slowly, a future emerges from sea of mud

DINORA AGUILAR, a young mother who in better times sold chewing gum from a street stall, cradled Lourdes in her arms and waited to show the baby daughter to a Cuban doctor.

Lourdes had swallowed mouthfuls of mud after Hurricane Mitch caused floods and landslides in Comayaguela, a town across the river from the Honduran capital, Tegucigalpa.

Her nose was also blocked and she was suffering from flu-like symptoms. Dinora, 23, was afraid the girl might have dengue fever, which is spreading through disaster areas of Central America. "Classic" dengue fever can be controlled if caught, but doctors here fear worse - cholera, malaria, typhoid - as floodwaters recede.

That could happen any day as Mexican engineers unlock bridges whose arches are clogged with hurricane debris from houses, buses and cars to the carcasses of animals and, it is expected, hundreds if not thousands of human corpses.

The doctor, Miguel Aldama, is part of a team sent by Fidel Castro, the Cuban leader, to help Honduran disaster victims. He eased Dinora's fears. Lourdes, aged 22 months, was suffering only from a respiratory ailment shared by thousands of people in the stricken zones, caused by humidity and dust from drying-out, contaminated mud. She was given medicine and went home feeling better.

The Cubans have set up a makeshift clinic in one of the

By PAUL DAVISON

worst-hit areas of Honduras, an area about the size of the City of London that is still knee-deep in mud and cordoned off by Honduran troops. Only two weeks ago, it was a bustling commercial district of shops, markets and bars. Now it looks as though an earthquake had hit a medieval town. Even now it seems inconceivable that the river rose 150ft, tore through bridges and surged through areas that thought they were several storeys higher than the flood danger zone.

In the San Isidro market where the Cubans have set up their clinic, frail old ladies sleep on the cold concrete floor where their market stalls used to be. Across the street, families form human chains to shovel thick, black mud from their bedroom windows.

Tens of thousands of Hondurans are living in Dickensian conditions here, without electricity or water, only a ruptured bridge away from the centre of the Honduran capital, its parliament building and historic city centre. This is where the Choluteca river not only burst its banks but turned into a 150ft wall of surging muddy water a week and a half ago.

This was the urban area worst hit by Hurricane Mitch. Most residents had heeded the call of appointed "town-criers" who raced through the streets as the surge approached, urging them to flee uphill. Several

Residents making their way through the debris in the streets of downtown Tegucigalpa. The devastation was caused by flooding from the Choluteca river. Joel Robina/AF

thousand who believed the river could never swamp its 150ft bridges refused to run and paid with their lives.

Now the survivors have returned to see if their homes are still standing - thousands are not - or to clean out mud that in some cases is packed as high as the ceilings of third-floor rooms. In many cases, it seems a hopeless task. Residents walk around in surgical masks, many wearing plastic wrappers like fishermen's waders around their trousers to keep out the mud. The masks are against the stench and the air-borne diseases that have begun to spread.

The locals could be in shelters or stay with relatives. But these were their homes, their shops. They have come back to reconstruct. They fear looters will run off with their possessions, furniture, their wares. If you used to live here, you can get through the army cordons.

In a first-floor corner of the devastated San Isidro market a block from the Choluteca river, the 13 Cuban doctors are risking their own health to fight spreading diseases. They have set up an emergency clinic to deal with whatever they can, mostly the respiratory problems and foot fungus from wading through mud.

The "clinic" is an unlit corner of what used to be the market's warehouse area, with two "consulting rooms" and an "infirmary". Each is a tiny room with a dusty concrete floor. The doctors wash their hands between patients in a pink bucket of water they change whenever a fresh supply is brought in. As in 75 per cent of this country, there is no running water.

There are hundreds of men, women and children with skin diseases, mostly fungus on the soles of their feet from wading in water or mud, sitting on wooden benches waiting for treatment.

Dr Juan Rodriguez Meso, a provincial health official for the Castro regime, fears outbreaks of cholera, malaria, hepatitis or typhoid. He points to half a dozen giant rats scurrying around the concrete floor next to the clinic. "We're seeing cases of Leptospirosis, transmitted by rats," he said. "I've asked the Honduran government to come here and fumigate but so far they haven't come."

"We have a second Cuban team in the Mosquitia region of the east coast and they have had a few cases of cholera. We are expecting cholera here and are getting ready for it. The problem here is that all the latrines were washed up here in the mud, as well as corpses. We're getting more and more cases of conjunctivitis from people rubbing their eyes after touching contaminated mud."

Stacked against the clinic's outside wall are cartons of medicines donated by the Castro government despite that country's lack of medicine, largely a result of the United States trade embargo. "It's a question of solidarity," said Dr Rodriguez. "These people are our brothers."

Some of the cartons are marked with the destination "Nicaragua". The Cuban doctors first intended to visit Nicaragua, an ally when the Marxist Sandinistas were in power there, but Nicaragua's present conservative president, Arnoldo Aleman, refused to let them in. He did accept some of their medicine, particularly a chemical called Biorat which the Cubans, who produced it, claim is the best anti-rat product in the world.

The Cuban doctors are just one part of an international aid effort here which was slow to get started but is now a perfect example of solidarity. Outside the Cuban "clinic," young

Mexican army engineers push building-sized piles of mud up the narrow streets. Not far away, American soldiers are trying to repair the broken bridges that have made trav-

elling between here and Tegucigalpa a nightmare.

And everywhere you turn, there are young men and women, mostly university students, shovelling mud to help



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Hong Kong gangster sentenced to death

HONG KONG'S most notorious criminal, Cheung Tze-kung, known as "Big Spender" and the "Big Boss", was sentenced to death yesterday in a Chinese court. Six members of his gang also received death sentences, while 29 others were given long jail terms.

Although Cheung's lawyer says he will appeal, there is practically no likelihood of success, meaning that Cheung and his cohorts will be executed by firing squad, possibly at a public execution.

It also marks the end of a gang whose exploits were so audacious that gang members were shunned by the better-organised Triad gangs, which account for most big crimes in the southern Chinese region.

Cheung was known as "Big Spender" because of his lavish tastes. Part of yesterday's judgment involved the confiscation of assets totalling \$47m.

At a highly unusual press conference yesterday in Canton, where the trial was held, the judges for the first time of

By STEPHEN VINES
in Hong Kong



Cheung: Notorious

sically revealed Cheung had kidnapped two of Hong Kong's most famous businessmen, Victor Li, the son of the tycoon Li Ka-shing, and Walter Kwok, the chairman of the Sun Hung Kai property conglomerate.

The ransoms for the release of the two men, totalling almost £155m, are believed to be the highest paid in the world. Mr Li's father paid the higher sum of almost £108m for the re-

lease of his son. Neither case was reported to the authorities. Cheung received a life sentence for the kidnaps and the death sentence for smuggling 800kg of explosives and arms from China to Hong Kong.

Although there is little sympathy for Cheung in Hong Kong there is considerable disquiet about the fact that he was being tried in a Chinese court for crimes committed in the former colony, which is supposed to have a separate legal system.

After the verdict was handed down, the Hong Kong Bar Association said that the case seriously undermined China's promise of "one country, two systems". The association said the case "could give some people the false impression that the rule of law in Hong Kong is subordinate to China".

Elsie Leung, Hong Kong's Secretary for Justice, said: "Hong Kong's jurisdiction has not been impaired in any manner whatsoever." She insisted that Cheung's crimes had also been committed in China.



East Timorese youths portraying the killing of unarmed protesters by Indonesian troops in the capital, Dili, seven years ago

Reuters

Soldiers fire on Jakarta protesters

INDONESIAN TROOPS fired on unarmed demonstrators outside the national parliament in Jakarta yesterday as tens of thousands of people marched through the centre of the capital.

Human-rights monitors were prevented, at first, from entering hospitals last night, but later reports suggested that 50 people had been injured in the worst disturbances in Jakarta since President Suharto was driven from power six months ago.

Police and soldiers carrying automatic rifles fired over the heads of the demonstrators as they marched towards the parliament where MPs are meeting in a special session to debate new laws and prepare for democratic elections next year. Tear-gas rounds were fired and water cannon were sprayed on to the crowds from British-made armoured cars. The rounds fired by the troops appear to have been blank or rubber coated, but on at least one occasion they were fired directly into the demonstrators. Ambulances were seen driving away from the scene and witnesses said that at least one man suffered a bullet wound in the leg. "The army and police overreacted," said a Western diplomat who was at the scene. "There was no threat against them."

The situation was alarmingly reminiscent of similar scenes in May, when uncontrolled rioting and nationwide protests forced President Suharto to resign after 32 years in power. He was succeeded by his vice-president and close friend, B J Habibie, who convened this week's meeting of the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) to fulfil his promise of democratic reform.

But many Indonesians regard the new president as little more than a stooge of the old regime. The national assembly, too, is still largely composed of unelected army officers and direct appointees of Suharto. When the assembly issues its decrees today they are expected to fall short of the demands made by the student organisations. These include elimination of the military's political role and an investigation into Suharto's acquired wealth.

"Suharto continues to live a good life, to enjoy his estimat-

BY DIARMID O'SULLIVAN
AND RICHARD LLOYD PARRY
in Jakarta

ed wealth of \$17bn (£10bn) obtained through corruption and robbing the people for the last 32 years," one of the student statements reads.

There have been intermittent demonstrations in Jakarta since May. But the protest yesterday marked the first time that vast numbers of ordinary people had joined the students. Many of them came from Jakarta's kampungs, the shum areas that have been worst affected by the country's economic crisis.

One of the city's ring roads was blocked by the crowd. Small groups of a few hundred soldiers who tried to stop the march were brushed aside. "Long live the Marines," people shouted at the Marine Corps, who are widely believed to be sympathetic to reform.

"This shows a tyrannical regime cannot control the people," said Ali, a history student from the prestigious University of Indonesia, as he walked towards the parliament.

The troops made their stand as night fell and torrential rain began to pour down. The students' discipline broke only once when a group of them attempted to drive an ambulance through soldiers blocking the toll road. Riot police smashed its windows with sticks, while soldiers fired dozens of blanks and rubber bullets into the air to drive the protesters back.

At least four students inside the ambulance were wounded, as well as one policeman. Officers ordered their men to pick up spent cartridge cases, and a Western diplomat who gathered some of the spent rounds as evidence was frisked.

There was no repeat of the incident last May that triggered Suharto's downfall, when six demonstrating students were shot dead with live rounds. But the military is in a quandary about the degree of force which it can afford to employ. Yesterday, the chief of the Indonesian armed forces, General Wiranto, offered an "apology" for the army's involvement in low-level violence on Wednesday. "As the father of the whole of the armed forces, I apologise and ask for forgiveness from the victims and their families," he said.

IN BRIEF

Serb civilians abduct Albanians

ARMED SERB civilians in Kosovo were holding hostage up to 100 ethnic Albanians yesterday and allegedly threatening to kill them. The Serb abductors were seeking the release of two fellow Serbs who went missing on Wednesday in the central Drenika region.

Israelis plan new homes

ISRAELI PUBLISHED a tender yesterday for the construction of 1,025 new homes at the disputed Jewish settlement of Har Homa in Arab East Jerusalem. The Jewish settlement plunged plans for a peace settlement with the Palestinians into crisis last year.

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Jewish insults cause a storm

THE RUSSIAN capital has been wrapped up for days in a storm over anti-Semitic remarks made at a rally by General Albert Makashov, an extremist on the far left of the Communist Party. The failure of the party to condemn him with sufficient vigour prompted Boris Yeltsin, an influential politician and tycoon of Jewish origin, to demand that the Communists be outlawed.

The Siberian governor Alexander Lebed has now entered the fray - but in the guise of a senior statesman, rebuking Moscow politicians for making mountains out of molehills and urging them to concentrate on heating homes and feeding the population.

General Lebed, governor of the vast Krasnoyarsk region and a man with ambitions to occupy the Kremlin, said he took a negative view of General Makashov's outburst. However, the Communists, the largest party in the State Duma, should hardly be banned for the behaviour of a single one of their number, he argued. And given the crisis in the country, politi-

BY HELEN WOMACK
in Moscow

cians should get down to the practical business of preparing for the long, hard, winter ahead.

What Mr Lebed did not take account of, however, was the signal failure of Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist leader, to repudiate the remarks of General Makashov. Possibly attempting to keep the lid on potential splits in his party, Mr Zyuganov responded instead by attacking the news media and Russia's wealthy tycoons.

On Tuesday, various public figures tried to play down the hardships facing Russia after Western intelligence sources said the country lacked grain and potatoes and could go hungry this winter.

However, General Lebed said the outcry over General Makashov was a "storm in a teacup". Only 50 million tonnes of grain had been harvested. There were heating problems in the Far East. Breath was also being wasted on the question of whether the body of Lenin

should be reburied. "He's been lying there [in the mausoleum] for years. He can lie there a bit longer," said General Lebed. "I repeat, there are very hard times ahead." As it to confirm his words, the temperature plunged in Moscow yesterday to minus 16C, a record degree of frost for November.

For intellectuals, for whom moral values are as important as bread, the Makashov affair has been disturbing. Leading artists, including Vladimir Vasiliev, the artistic director of the Bolshoi Theatre, were quick to speak out against anti-Semitism.

However, it took a while for the government and the head of the Russian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Alexei II, to make clear that they too regarded his racist diatribe as unacceptable.

As for Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the nationalist bad boy of Russian politics, he seemed not to care. His reaction was to appear on television wearing a powdered wig, playing the role of Mozart in a production by MPs on the composer.

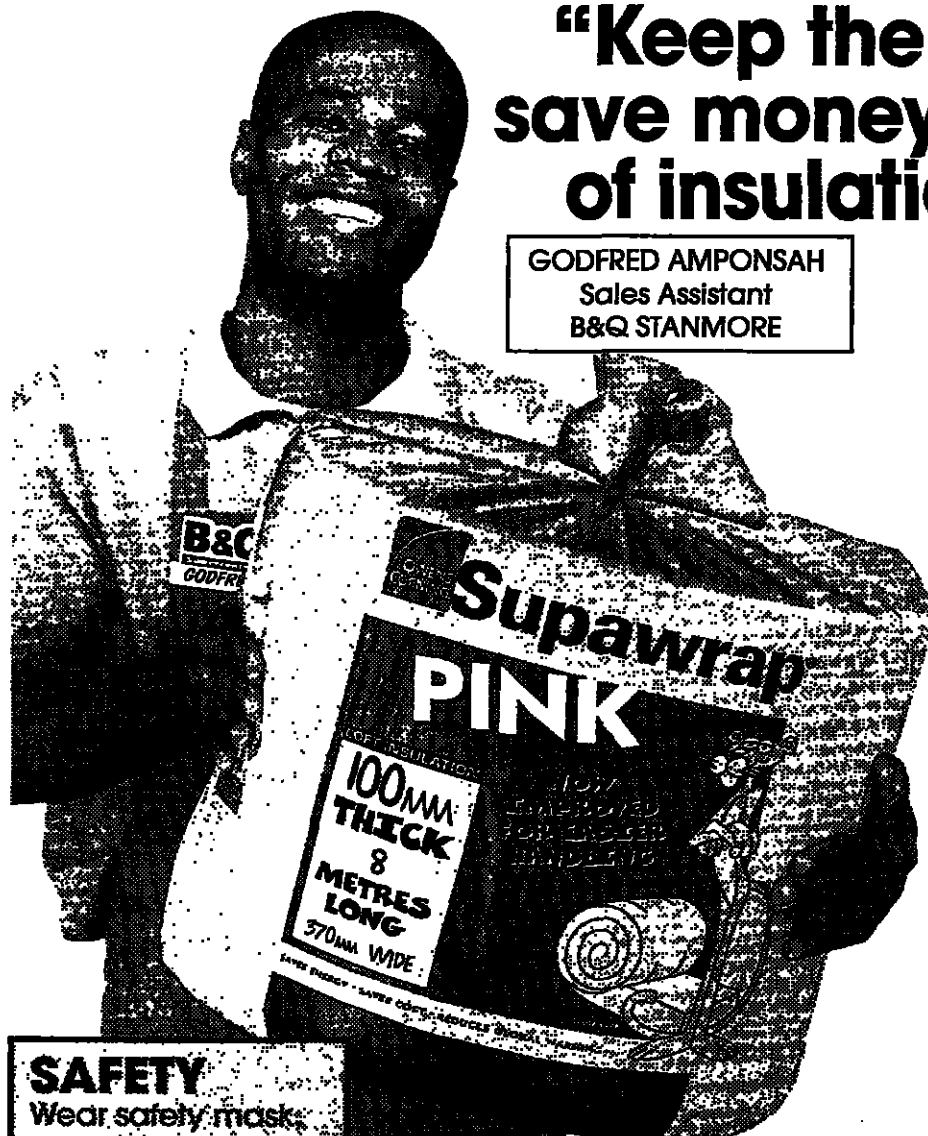


An Orthodox Jew at a Moscow synagogue (left); Makashov (top) who made anti-Semitic remarks, and Lebed

Jeremy Nicholl/AP/AP

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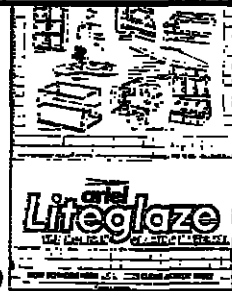
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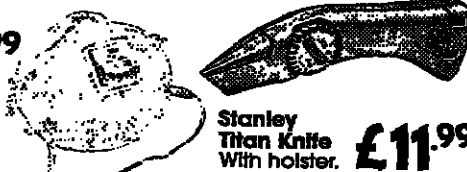


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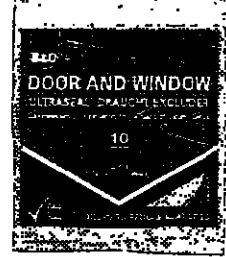
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Switzerland defends its left-wing martyr

EUROPEAN TIMES
SAINTE-CROIX

PERCHED ON the edge of the Jura hills with an Alpine backdrop, the small, peaceful town of Sainte-Croix is the epitome of a Swiss picture postcard. The townsfolk, the Sainte-Croix, are better known for producing music boxes and harps than for setting the world on fire. But they have not forgotten one of their more militant grandsons: Alexei Vladimir Jaccard-Siegler, thrice tortured and probably executed by Chile's military regime two decades ago.

His Christian names alone were enough to irritate General Augusto Pinochet's right-wing supporters in 1972. Born in Chile to a family of Swiss origin, the 20-year-old student had inherited his father's militant Communist beliefs. He was interrogated and tortured for a day, then thrown into prison and tortured again when President Salvador Allende was toppled a year later. Alexei Jaccard disappeared in 1977, allegedly the victim of a deal between Argentina and Chile. From beyond the grave, he doggedly continues to haunt General Pinochet.

Alexei Jaccard is merely a single name on the list in Spain that prompted Judge Baltasar Garçon to demand the former dictator's extradition from Britain. He is one of 2,920 officially dead or missing during the 17 years of Chile's dictatorship. In all likelihood, the 82-year-old man in a London hospital

would not have been able to distinguish Mr Jaccard from any other long-haired young opponent. Equally, were he not Swiss by his father, Geneva's public prosecutor would not have added his extradition request.

The *Journal de Sainte-Croix*, circulation 2,500, pieced together the "local" boy's fate in a detailed investigation in 1992. Its editor, Jean-Claude Piquet, admits Mr Jaccard's story took up an unusual amount of space compared with other profiles on local émigrés. "It shook the local population," he says.

The Jaccards are one of Sainte-Croix's old bourgeois families. Transposed to Chile in the Seventies, they would have been closer to the wealthy establishment than General Pinochet's regime sought to nurture.

After he was released from prison in Chile, Alexei, the youngest Jaccard, fled to Argentina and then to Switzerland in 1974. He claimed his Swiss passport and joined the Swiss Socialist Party, rarely losing touch with what was happening across the Atlantic. The rest of his family was persecuted and fled to Argentina, only to fall into the lap of yet another military coup.

Mr Jaccard lobbied the UN until his family were granted asylum in France. Here the versions differ. In Sainte-Croix they say he became worried when they did not turn up in Paris, and flew to Buenos

Aires. His political friends claim he was a hero, on a secret mission to deliver a message to Chile's Communist underground. Either way, Alexei was last seen by his sister and airline staff in the Argentine capital a day after he arrived. Then the trail descends into the underworld controlled by the generals. What is clear is that the young man with a Swiss passport disappeared into torture cells in Buenos Aires because of his Chilean background.

Through the years, Mr Jaccard's family, human rights campaigners, Swiss officials, and journalists followed a series of trails through Latin America. Once Argentina returned to democracy, a national commission listed Mr Jaccard in a group of 1,300 who were arrested but later seen alive in one of the junta's detention centres. Chile's inquiry 10 years later concluded he was seized on 16 May 1977 by Argentine police and the Chilean secret service.

Since General Pinochet was detained, the parliaments in Vaud, Sainte-Croix's canton, and Geneva have voted, purely symbolically, to back his prosecution. Neither is a hotbed of militancy. Even cautious Swiss diplomats are letting the press know they think it is ethically justified. Alexei Jaccard may turn out to be the pride of Sainte-Croix as well as Switzerland's most famous left-winger.

PETER CAPELLA

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BRIEFING

Bank of Ireland looks for a buy

THE Bank of Ireland said yesterday it is looking to make further acquisitions in the UK and could be willing to pay as much as £1.1bn (£900m) for the right deal. The bank, which bought the Bristol & West building society for £800m last year, has just received £738m from the sale of its stake in Citizens Bank in America, but chief financial officer Paul D'Alton insists that Ireland's second largest financial institution is not under pressure to rush out and buy. The bank, which yesterday reported a 34 per cent jump in six months profits before tax and exceptional to £295m, is seeking powers for a share buyback. Bristol & West more than doubled its profits contribution to £89m.

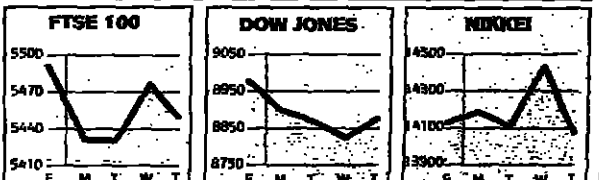
Second PFI review ordered

THE GOVERNMENT has asked Sir Malcolm Bates to carry out a second review of the operation of the Private Finance Initiative to see whether more can be done through public-private partnerships to boost investment in public sector infrastructure, when the mandate of the existing Treasury task force expires next year. Sir Malcolm, who is chairman of electrical components distributor Premier Farnell, was brought in immediately after the election by Paymaster General Geoffrey Robinson to kick start the PFI. The creation of the PFI task force was one of his main recommendations. Sir Malcolm has also been asked to see whether the Government can get better value for money by bringing in more private sector skills into the management of projects. Outlook, page 23

Ladbroke £9m down on new game

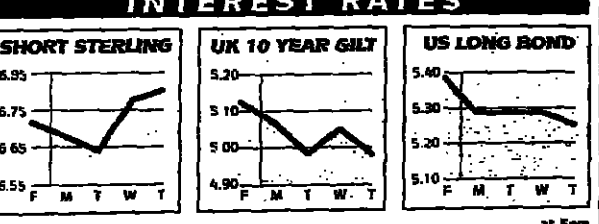
DISAPPOINTING sales of its new football lottery game Easy Play will wipe £9m off Ladbroke's profits this year, the hotels and betting group said yesterday. In an update on third quarter trading, Ladbroke said that sales of the game, linked to the National Lottery, "have not been at predicted levels". Easy Play, launched in August, had a turnover of £800,000 a week, well below the company's expectations of "a few millions", a spokesman said. The leisure group reported an advance of around 20 per cent in third quarter profits. The performance was driven by a good showing in its betting business which offset some weakness in the Hilton hotels division. Investment column, page 25

STOCK MARKETS



Index	Close	Change	52 wk High	52 wk Low	YTD %
FTSE 100	5449.00	-27.80	6183.70	4999.20	3.43
FTSE 250	4845.20	-27.60	5870.90	4247.60	4.78
FTSE 350	2599.70	-13.50	3299.10	2210.40	3.58
FTSE All Share	2814.72	-12.65	3386.52	2143.53	3.70
FTSE Smallcap	2068.70	-3.00	2793.80	1834.40	4.09
FTSE Fledgling	1135.40	-2.20	1517.10	1045.20	4.48
FTSE AIM	822.40	53.81	1146.90	761.30	1.15
FTSE EBLIC 100	889.85	-3.37	1146.90	761.30	1.15
Dow Jones	8876.60	-53.81	9367.84	7349.99	1.65
Nikkei	14075.06	-352.96	17352.52	12787.90	1.04
Hong Kong	2948.18	-189.14	3192.16	2544.79	4.82
Dax	4639.89	-77.81	5217.63	3656.62	1.91

INTEREST RATES



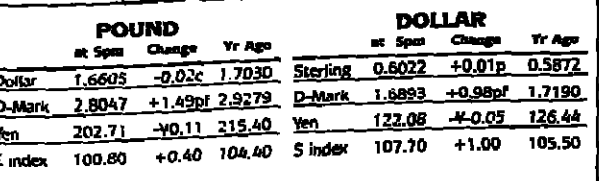
MONEY MARKET RATES

Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	Yr. Chg.
UK	6.94	-0.78	6.45	-1.50
US	5.40	-0.47	5.09	-0.97
Japan	0.40	-0.08	0.46	-0.05
Germany	3.64	-0.12	3.54	-0.61

BOND YIELDS

Index	10 year	30 year	Long bond	Yr. Chg.
UK	4.99	-1.80	4.64	-2.06
US	4.78	-1.80	4.64	-2.06
Japan	0.85	-1.05	1.38	-1.03
Germany	4.22	-1.45	5.20	-1.06

CURRENCIES



POUND

Index	at Spot	Change	Yr. Ago
Dollar	1.6605	-0.022	1.7030
D-Mark	2.8947	+1.490	2.9279
Yen	202.71	-10.11	212.40
£ index	100.80	+0.40	104.40

DOLLAR

Index	at Spot	Change	Yr. Ago
Sterling	0.6022	+0.010	0.5872
D-Mark	1.6893	+0.880	1.7190
Yen	122.08	-4.02	126.44
£ index	107.70	+1.00	105.50

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Class	Chg	Yr. Ago
Brent Oil (\$)	11.47	0.28	19.00
Gold (\$)	296.65	3.50	307.25
Silver (\$)	4.99	0.00	4.95
GDP	115.40	3.00	112.04
RPI	164.40	3.20	159.30
Base Rates	6.75	7.25	

TOURIST RATES

Index	Class	Chg	Yr. Ago
Australia (\$)	2.5480		
Austria (schilling)	19.08		
Belgium (francs)	56.09		
Canada (\$)	2.5005		
Cyprus (pounds)	0.7996		
Denmark (krone)	10.39		
Finland (markka)	9.3105		
France (francs)	9.1159		
Germany (marks)	2.7288		
Greece (drachma)	457.20		
Hong Kong (\$)	12.47		
Ireland (pounds)	1.0890		
India (rupees)	63.17		
Israel (shekels)	6.6066		
Italy (lira)	2.698		
Japan (yen)	200.63		
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.0516		
Malta (lira)	0.6065		

Zeneca puts £2bn price tag on chemicals arm

ZENECA, THE drug giant, yesterday put its specialty chemicals business up for sale with a price tag of up to £2bn in a bid to focus on its pharmaceuticals and agrochemicals businesses.

The company said that it planned to sell Zeneca Specialties, which produces dyes for computer printers, colours, leather finishes and chemicals for drugs, to a single buyer by the first quarter of next year. Sir David Barnes said the rapid consolidation in the chemicals industry offered "the best long-term future for the business, its employees, customers and shareholders". Zeneca said it had received no offers for the business but industry analysts predicted that the announcement will trigger a bidding war among the world's largest chemicals groups. Bidders are likely to include Du Pont and Dow of the US, Laporte of the UK and the Swiss giant Clariant, formed earlier this week through an \$8bn merger between Clariant and Ciba Specialty Chemicals.

The City welcomed Zeneca's decision to exit the highly-cyclical chemicals business to focus on its core drug and agrochemicals units. Shares in Zeneca, which have suffered because of the chemicals operation, soared 28p to 2,265p after the news of the proposal. Industry experts said the divestment increased the chances of a sale of the agrochemicals business as Zeneca strives to improve the performance of its core drug-making business. The specialty chemicals division had sales of £885m last year, a fraction of Zeneca's £5.2bn turnover. Zeneca is set to retain Marlow Foods and two factories in Huddersfield and Grangemouth in Scotland. Zeneca Specialties's performance has improved steadily since Zeneca's demerger from Imperial Chemical Industries in 1983, with margins rising from six to 10 per cent over the past four years.

Martin Evans, the head of research at stockbroker Sutherland, said the division "is much better than it was. It has reasonably good margins and a very good market position. This is a good deal for Zeneca and a good deal for the industry".

BT banks on Internet boom to beat recession

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

BRITISH TELECOM yesterday shrugged off worries about an economic slowdown as it reported a strong rise in profits powered by an explosion in Internet traffic.

Sir Peter Bonfield, chief executive, said BT was beginning to see signs of a slowdown and forecast that growth could slow next year to between zero and 1 per cent - lower than the Chancellor Gordon Brown's forecasts. But he said it would not be a "bloodbath", and indicated that BT expected to be bolstered by the extraordinary rise in Internet, data and multimedia traffic on its network.

He was speaking as BT unveiled a 14 per cent rise in underlying pre-tax profits for the second quarter to £778m, fuelled by a sharp jump in business revenues and an explosion in the number of homes installing a second line to surf the Internet or link up to interactive services.

Top-line profits soared to £1.878bn for the three months to the end of September as BT booked a £1.1bn profit on the sale of its 20 per cent stake in MCI to WorldCom.

BT, which generates all its profits from UK operations and still accounts for more than 90 per cent of all telephone lines, restricted the net loss of residential lines to 65,000 during the half year, compared with a reduction of 230,000 in the same period last year.

Robert Brace, finance director, said the slowdown in erosion of its domestic customer base was due more to households installing a second line than returning to BT from rival operators.



Robert Brace, BT finance director (left), and Sir Peter Bonfield, chief executive, have seen a quadrupling of Internet access customers in the last 15 months and a big jump in homes taking a second line. Nicola Kurtz

In the 15 months between June last year and this September, BT's Internet customers grew from 76,000 to 280,000 and its new Click Plus pay-as-you-go Internet service has attracted 20,000 customers in three weeks.

Mr Brace estimated that Internet revenues now amounted to £300m to £400m a year. Much of this is pure profit since it is incremental income. Despite £250m worth of price

reductions, BT's inland call revenues still rose by 2 per cent to just over £2.5bn during the six-month period on a 6 per cent rise in call volumes. However, international call revenues fell by 8 per cent to £733m.

Despite the £1.1bn MCI windfall and a gearing of just 4 per cent, BT gave little indication that it was planning to return large amounts of cash to shareholders following last year's £2bn special dividend.

The group indicated that it would prefer to use its surplus cash to invest in expansion of the domestic and international networks. Capital expenditure on the network is running at £3bn a year while BT is investing a further £1bn abroad, including heavy investment to roll out its European network. Cellnet, the mobile telephone operator in which BT has a 60 per cent stake, added 230,000 customers in the three months between July and September, taking its customer base to 3.39m.

Sir Peter indicated that BT would be lobbying the Government to be allowed to buy out the remaining 40 per cent in Cellnet owned by Securicor. This would allow BT to offer an integrated fixed-mobile network when it bids next year for one of the three third-generation mobile licences. Outlook, page 23

Top three quit East Midlands

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

THE THREE top executives at East Midlands Electricity have quit the group following its £1.9bn takeover by PowerGen, it emerged yesterday.

Bob Davies, East Midlands' chief executive, Andrew Halford, finance director, and Keith Stannard, distribution director, have all left the company, although PowerGen insisted that each of them had been offered jobs to stay.

The three executives are understood to have been entitled to 18 months pay for loss of office. Mr Davies was on a salary of £237,000.

News of the high-level departures came as PowerGen reported an 8 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for the half-year to £166m and said it aimed to launch the sale of two of its coal-fired stations within the next few weeks.

PowerGen agreed to dispose

Dennis directors go after fierce bid battle

TWO TOP directors of Dennis left the group yesterday just weeks after the bus parts maker was bought by the engineer Mayflower in a hotly-contested £269m bid, writes Francesco Guerrera.

Steve Burton, the chief executive, will step down at the end of the month and could be

in line for a payout of around £184,000. Brendan Geary, the finance director, is set to leave in February with a payoff of around £112,000. John Fleming, a Mayflower director, has been appointed chairman of Dennis, now a fully-owned subsidiary of the engineering group.

Sources close to Mayflower, which won Dennis after a fierce bid battle with rival bus-maker Henrys, said that the departures were part of a "smooth transition". Messrs Burton and Geary led the Dennis board which backed Henrys' offer until the last days of the bid, arguing that the two businesses had a better fit

extra coal it was negotiating to buy from RJB Mining, the country's biggest producer and denied that it was under pressure from the Government to reach a deal.

Ed Wallis, executive chairman, said US expansion remained a priority for PowerGen. But he said that following the collapse of its planned "merger of equals" with Houston Industries, PowerGen would now look at straightforward acquisitions. The cold summer and a £29m contribution from East Midlands helped lift operating profits for the six months to the end of September from £187m to £228m in the six months. But the East Midlands acquisition also helped raise net debt to £2.5bn, leaving PowerGen with gearing of 155 per cent.

The group is changing its year-end to December in line with East Midlands' reporting period and will announce nine month results next March. Outlook, page 23

Taiwan lifts jobs gloom in the Glen

BY MICHAEL HARRISON AND CLIFFORD GERMAN

THE GLOOM on the jobs front lifted a little yesterday after a Taiwanese electronics company announced plans to set up in Scotland creating up to 700 jobs.

But the good news was tempered by a fresh round of cutbacks in the oil industry with Shell announcing 750 more job losses than expected and Texaco axing 1,000 jobs in exploration and production.

Universal Scientific Industrial Company of Taiwan is to build a £15m plant at Irvine in Ayrshire - Silicon Glen - to produce components for the computer, telecoms and automotive industry.

The announcement was seen an important boost for the Government's drive to attract more inward investors following high-profile factory closures by Siemens and Fujitsu in the North East.

Barbara Roche, the DTI minister responsible for inward investment, said: "This investment represents an important vote of confidence in the UK electronics industry."

The Taiwanese investment was secured with support from the Invest in Britain Bureau. Located in Scotland and local enterprise agencies who fought off strong European competition. There are now nine Taiwanese electronics companies in Scotland who will employ more than 4,000 by the turn of the century.

Shell is cutting a total of 3,000 jobs in its European oil products businesses. This is equivalent to 20 per cent of the workforce, not the 15 per cent reduction initially announced. A spokesman said that the job losses would be achieved by a combination of redeployment, natural wastage and redundancies.

Texaco blamed its 1,000 job losses - 12 per cent of its exploration and production workforce - on weak oil prices and said the move would save it \$200m a year.

Meanwhile, a £10m bid for Crabtree, specialist maker of machinery for colour printing drink and food cans, has saved 380 jobs at the group's Gateshead headquarters which faced an uncertain future.

The board is recommending a rescue bid worth 50p a share from LTG Technologies, a wholly owned subsidiary of LTG Holding, based in Stuttgart. LTG Technologies, which secured an AIM listing six weeks ago, has been talking to Crabtree since August and has already underwritten an overdraft for the company.

Crabtree's business has been hard hit by the global downturn in demand for capital equipment.

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

GROWING TENSION over Iraq hit shares and at one time Footsie was down 74.4 points. It recovered lost ground, closing 27.8 lower at 5,449. Oil shares benefited from the possibility of renewed hostilities in the Gulf with Shell leading the charge with an 11.25p gain to 254.25p. Zeneca's plan to sell-off its specialities operations, which could fetch up to £1bn, lifted the drug group 28p to 2,283p. British American Tobacco was puffed a further 6.5p higher to 523.5p on hopes of a US litigation settlement. Derek Pain, page 25

NEW YORK

THE DOW JONES Industrial Average crept marginally higher in early trade in New York, and was trading up 15.44 points to 8839.25 by lunchtime. Oil stocks, including Exxon and Chevron, rose on speculation that a military strike in Iraq would disrupt supply from the Gulf. Computer-related stocks, however, fared poorly. The Nasdaq Composite was trading down 0.1 per cent at 1860.27 in early trade. Shares in Intel, the chip manufacturer, fell after hitting a new high on Wednesday.

TOKYO

THE NIKKEI fell by 2.45 per cent to close at 14,075.06 after the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) disappointed investors with its 18 trillion yen (¥90 billion) economic package. The LDP failed to announce cuts in the rate of sales tax, which was raised to 5 per cent back in April 1997. However, it did propose cuts in the rates of income tax and corporation tax. Russell Jones at Lehman Brothers in Tokyo said: "There is nothing here that we didn't know already."

FRANKFURT

SHARES FELL sharply as traders anticipated a correction. The Xetra Dax of blue-chip shares dropped 1.1 per cent to 4,633.26 points. Traders said the correction would have been bigger amid concerns over military tension in the Gulf and the growing threat of air-strikes against Iraq. But sentiment was boosted by the strong dollar and a stable bond market. Deutsche Telekom, the former state-owned company, saw its shares slide by 2.1 per cent when it said it was cutting charges.

SAO PAULO

THE BOVESPA stock index was trading down 212.72 points or 2.74 per cent - at 7550.27 by lunchtime yesterday. Investors were nervous ahead of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) bail-out package and were concerned the proposed fiscal austerity package would get stuck in Congress. Details of the IMF package could be announced today. The Central Bank's Monetary Policy Committee lowered the annual interest rate late on Wednesday from 49.75 per cent to 42.25 per cent after capital outflows slowed.

Budd spells out MPC's methods

THE DECISION-MAKING process of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is today spelled out by one of its members, amid concerns that a lack of information about the way its decisions are made could undermine the Bank's independence.

Writing in November's *Economic Journal*, Sir Alan Budd stresses that economic judgement plays a key role in Bank decisions, and explains that the MPC does not react to temporary changes in inflation, even if this means inflation misses its target.

Instead, Sir Alan writes, the MPC concentrates on the inflation outlook two years ahead.

He says: "Focusing on a period one to two years ahead provides a practical and approximate way of meeting the Chancellor's instruction that the target is 2.5 per cent at all times while avoiding undesirable fluctuations in output."

In his article, Sir Alan sets out one of the most detailed accounts to date of the MPC's decision-making process.

He emphasises the importance of the Bank's 12 regional agents, three of whom brief the MPC on anecdotal and survey evidence on the Friday preceding the monthly interest-

BY LEA PATERSON

rate meeting. In this regular pre-MPC meeting, which usually lasts a full day, the committee also hears detailed evidence from Bank economists on a wide range of issues.

The interest rate meeting itself is spread over two days, occupying an afternoon and the following morning. On the first day, the MPC revisits the issues raised in the Friday briefing, reserving discussion of the appropriate policy reaction until the next morning.

At the time of the quarterly inflation forecast the MPC has a series of lengthy meetings with Bank staff.

The MPC always holds a monthly interest rate meeting the week before the forecast is published, when it chooses the level of rates most likely to return inflation to target by the end of the two-year forecasting period.

Although the MPC has now been setting interest rates for more than a year, there is still uncertainty in the City about how the committee works. The perception that it is too insulated from the real world has attracted heavy criticism from industry.

Confusion about the precise interpretation of the inflation remit has also prompted concern in academic circles.

Writing in the same edition of the *Economic Journal*, Professor Charles Bean says that the Chancellor's phrasing of the inflation remit - in particular, the fact that the MPC is not told how quickly inflation should be brought back to target - runs the risk of jeopardising the Bank's independence.

However, Professor Bean concludes that, in practice, the scope for political interference in setting rates is limited.



Sir Alan Budd: Looking at outlook two years ahead



Regional airports such as BAA-owned Glasgow are seen by some as an answer to congestion in the South-east. But BAA doubts that they can solve the problem

Easing the airport traffic jam

BY PHILIP THORNTON
Transport Correspondent

LONDON'S AIRPORTS are bursting. A decision on the proposed Terminal 5 at Heathrow is still months away, let alone a start in the building work. Passenger numbers are growing at 8 per cent a year. The Government's solution? The country's regional airports.

This week the Government cleared the local authority-owned airports for take-off by relaxing Treasury borrowing restrictions. The airports have been clamouring to be set free, claiming that it would be good for them and their regional economies, and would help to cope with the growth in demand, currently sharply skewed to southern England.

John Reid, the Transport Minister, outlined the Government's thinking, saying the move would pave the way for local authority-owned airports to meet the challenges of the new millennium. "We want to maximise the contribution these airports make to their

News Analysis: London's air terminals are not going to be able to cope with rising passenger numbers. Can the regions come to the rescue?

local economies, and to relieve congestion at airports in the South-east. Giving financially sound local authority airports the power to raise private finance for development work will help us do that," he said.

The move will allow local authorities to raise development capital on the money markets from April 1, enabling them to bring forward expansion plans to cater for growing demand.

Although there are nine council-owned airports, only four are on the Government's radar for next year - Manchester, Newcastle, Leeds/Bradford and Norwich. Two others, Teesside and Gloucestershire, are on the margins of profitability while applications from Blackpool, Exeter and Humberside are considered extremely unlikely by the Department for Environment, Transport and the Regions.

They will be able to expand more quickly than they would have done under the current rules, which allow them to invest their retained profits. This could mean the development of hotel and shopping facilities - all vital for attracting the modern air traveller.

The latest annual report for BAA, which owns seven UK airports including Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted, illustrates the point. Whereas airport and other traffic charges amounted to £507m, a growth of 8 per cent, retail revenue leapt 45 per cent to £877m.

But BAA, which also owns Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Southampton, is not convinced provincial airports can provide the solution. Des Wilson, director of corporate affairs, said the company had lobbied strongly for the move the Government announced this week, stressing it was not a question of competition. But he said: "This will lead to very little relief for the South-east problem."

He said 80 per cent of passengers for London's airports came from the South-east and would be unlikely to want to travel to northern England for a flight. BAA expects the 55 million passengers at the London airports to double by 2015. "Even if Terminal 5 is approved and Gatwick and Stansted realise the full potential of their runways we won't have sufficient capacity to meet demand."

Manchester Airport believes it can make an important contribution but wants the Government to go further in allowing it to operate commercially. The airport has seen passenger numbers soar by 60 per cent to 16 million over the last six years.

A spokeswoman said Manchester, currently the third largest in the UK, could overtake Gatwick within about 10 years. "The South-east is congested and there is no more space at Heathrow or Gatwick. BAA is pulling forward its ex-

pansion plan for Stansted. It is very helpful that the Government has seen the role places like Manchester have to play."

She said regional airports feared that European terminals such as Amsterdam, which has seen a growth of between 30 and 40 per cent in the number of UK passengers, would simply suck up the spare demand.

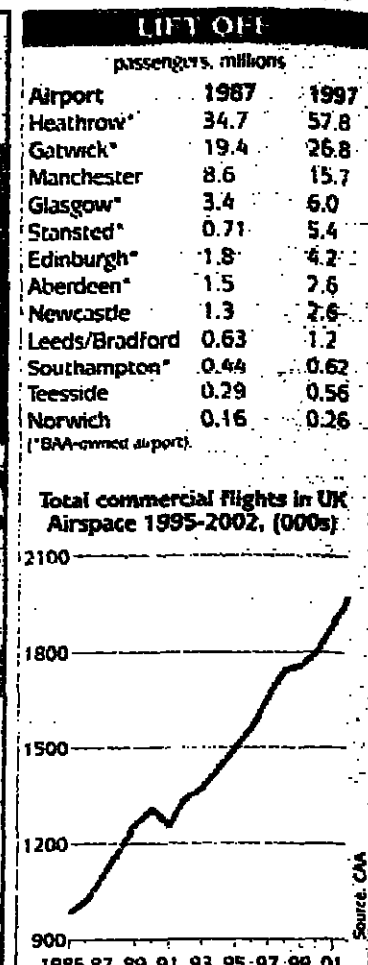
She said Manchester could easily attract more transatlantic airlines once it was able to expand and pointed to the 1 million passengers using shuttle services to Heathrow, half of whom she said were transferring to long-distance flights.

The regional airports want more from the Government. Even under the new rules, Manchester would not be able to invest as an equity partner in projects such as a high-speed transit system. As BAA has shown with its Heathrow Express, such schemes are crucial in attracting passengers.

Even the predicted levels of growth could turn out to be a severe underestimate if the "open skies" pact between the UK and US - currently grounded after a breakdown in talks - ever takes off. This would end restrictions on access to Heathrow for all US carriers.

BAA's Des Wilson said the solution was twofold. First, the green light for Terminal 5 and for a planned £200m expansion at Stansted would allow for another 7 million passengers. Secondly, the Government had to decide whether another runway was needed in the South-east and where that should go.

The Government's thinking will be revealed in its aviation White Paper, promised in the transport White Paper next summer. It will contain a new policy on UK airports, looking 30 years ahead. More importantly it will contain the Government's policy on coping with South-east demand and therefore cannot be published until after the final decision is taken on Terminal 5, something that could still be 18 months away.



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- Sainsbury's Hand-decorated Christmas Star Cake 3lb
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GRE injects £300m into PPP in life insurance shake-up

GUARDIAN ROYAL Exchange announced a sweeping restructuring of its life insurance business yesterday in response to months of pressure from the City.

The insurer sold the bulk of its life and pensions business to PPP lifetime care, its newly acquired subsidiary, for £220m, after injecting £300m into PPP to develop its business.

The move allows GRE to distribute all the profits from critical illness and term assurance business to shareholders. PPP will now write nearly all of Guardian's health and protection business.

Before the restructuring,

BY ANDREW VERITY

shareholders received only 90 per cent of profits because the business was written into an old-style with-profits fund, with 10 per cent going to policyholders. The fund, first set up in 1720, will now close to new business.

The City has been pressuring GRE to do something to boost its life insurance business because it was failing to compete effectively. But analysts feared GRE might pay a big premium to buy another life insurer.

Shares rose by 2 per cent yesterday as it emerged GRE

had escaped from this dilemma by transferring its life business to PPP. Analysts welcomed the move.

John Robins, group chief executive, said: "Today's announcement is the culmination of many months' work, including liaison with HM Treasury. We have been determined to improve the returns from our life business for both shareholders and policyholders. Our acquisition of PPP healthcare group gave us the ideal opportunity."

GRE has already conducted three restructurings in the last two years and has cut its costs by 50 per cent over four years,

concentrating on health, protection and general insurance.

The announcement failed to quell speculation that GRE remains a prime candidate for a takeover. Yesterday the company said its overall operations remained under pressure.

In a separate trading statement, Mr Robins said: "Market trading conditions of other companies are consistent with our own experience, particularly in UK motor."

GRE said it should achieve savings of £25m from the integration of PPP plus a further £30m from the integration of two US insurers, Peerless and Indiana, bought earlier this year.

Lucas to soothe investors

LucasVarity is to embark on a major charm offensive among City institutions following the shareholder rebellion that thwarted the group's attempt to shift its primary stock market listing and headquarters to the United States, writes Michael Harrison.

A board meeting is due to be held later this month to discuss how to go about fence-mending with UK investors. One LucasVarity board member said: "Clearly there are relationship issues between the company and its shareholders in the UK that have to be addressed."

The move to the US was blocked after a group of UK institutions holding 15 per cent of LucasVarity shares, led by Schroders, voted against the board. Other dissenting institutions were Legal & General, Standard Life, Norwich Union and Prudential.

LucasVarity insists that the position of Victor Rice, its chief executive and the main architect of the plan, is not under threat.

Lonrho Africa on the attack

Lonrho Africa, yesterday went on the counter-offensive with a scathing personal attack on one of the George Soros-backed investors who are calling for a major shake-up of the troubled sub-Saharan conglomerate.

In an angry outburst, Bernard Asher, the Lonrho Africa chairman, compared Miles Morland, the head of the African investment fund Blakeney Management, to the former Indonesian president Suharto and Imelda Marcos.

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

the wife of the former Philippines dictator, describing him as so ruthless that "Suharto and Imelda Marcos have nothing to teach" him. Mr Asher accused Mr Morland of contradicting himself in negotiations with the board over the future of the hotels-to-agriculture group, recently demerged from the late Tiny Rowland's mining group.

Mr Morland was unavailable for comment yesterday, but Joe Demby, a partner in Blakeney, said that Mr Asher's comments "smacked of desperation".

Lonrho Africa yesterday called a special shareholders' meeting, scheduled for 10 December, to vote on the board changes proposed by Blakeney and fellow investment fund African Lakes, where one of the Soros funds own 13 per cent.

Blakeney and African Lakes - which hold 10.1 per cent of Lonrho - want to replace the current non-executive directors, including Mr Asher, with their nominees.

COMPANY RESULTS

Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	X-lev
Bank of Ireland (I)	29,480 (28,800)	4,800 (5,200)	75.50 (33.0p)	9.20 (7.1p)	11.01.98	23.11.98
Bank of Scotland (I)	2,400 (2,300)	400 (450)	2.50 (2.8p)	0.50 (0.4p)	06.01.99	14.12.98
British Telecomm (I)	4,000 (4,000)	600 (600)	20.70 (0.5p)	-	-	-
Capital Finance (I)	120,000 (113,000)	25,000 (22,000)	18.00 (1.5p)	15.50 (13.75p)	08.04.99	23.11.98
Channel 4 (I)	1,400 (1,400)	200 (200)	2.00 (0.2p)	1.50 (1.2p)	29.01.99	18.01.99
Chapman & Cutler (I)	2,400 (1,200)	0.700 (0.420)	12.70 (0.20p)	-	-	-
City of London (I)	45,500 (57,200)	2,500 (1,000)	14.50 (0.50p)	1.50 (1.5p)	08.04.99	08.02.99
Compass Group (I)	20,000 (14,400)	500 (400)	5.20 (0.40p)	80 (80p)	14.12.98	23.11.98
Debenhams (I)	12,800 (12,700)	0.80 (0.60)	0.10 (0.02p)	-	-	-
The Home Group (I)	3,200 (3,200)	0.80 (0.60)	8.00 (0.80p)	2.50 (2.00p)	08.04.99	07.12.98
John Lewis Group (I)	25,000 (27,700)	15,400 (17,300)	4.50 (0.70p)	4.50 (0.70p)	22.01.99	23.11.98
Legal & General (I)	180,800 (120,700)	13,200 (9,300)	15.40 (1.70p)	2.40 (2.30p)	08.04.99	01.03.99
STG Asia Group (I)	107,400 (144,200)	5,300 (6,700)	7.00 (0.10p)	-	-	-
Ticket Instruments (I)	103,700 (94,100)	5,400 (7,200)	0.75 (0.10p)	0.75 (0.10p)	-	-
Publicis Page (I)	7,800 (1,570)	0.510 (0.154)	16.00 (0.20p)	-	-	-
Powergen (I)	1,200 (1,100)	0.30 (0.20)	4.10 (0.20p)	-	-	-
Stevenson International (I)	150 (100)	0.30 (0.20)	1.00 (0.10p)	0.80 (0.10p)	08.12.98	23.11.98
Swire (I)	0.950 (0.700)	-1.00 (0.40)	-1.80 (0.50p)	2.50 (2.50p)	07.01.99	30.11.98
Warner Howard (I)	12,700 (13,100)	3,850 (3,200)	18.10 (0.20p)	3.50 (0.50p)	04.01.99	23.11.98
Wong & Co Property (I)	41,500 (38,000)	3,350 (2,600)	18.10 (0.20p)	8.20 (0.75p)	10.12.98	23.11.98
Various Group (I)	0.200 (0.200)	-0.000 (0.000)	-1.00 (0.10p)	-	-	-

(p) - Profit (I) - Income (Q) - Quarterly

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Oil shares higher in knee-jerk reaction

RENEWED TENSION in the Gulf had the predictable impact on the stock market; oil shares moved higher as the crude price strengthened. Although the world's oil supply is regarded as more than adequate a knee-jerk reaction was inevitable.

So British Petroleum rose 13.5p to 89.5p and even much-criticised Shell flared 11.25p to 354.5p. Enterprise Oil ended 20p higher at 395p and Laseco was up 5.5p at 173.5p.

Some defence stocks strengthened on the prospect of military action against Iraq, with British Aerospace 9p stronger at 444p and General Electric Co 4p firmer at 476p. Conoco, helped by an analysts' meeting at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, climbed 47.5p to 605p.

The Iraqi brigade advanced as most of the market retreated. Footsie, at one time off 74.4 points, ended 27.8 down at 3,449 in moderate trading. Supporting shares also gave ground.

It was generally another lacklustre display with any near-term interest rate cuts on this side of the Atlantic seemingly ruled out but the

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

prospect of another US reduction still high on the agenda.

EMI, the showbiz group, fell 14.5p to 350p with DKB negative. WPP, the advertising consultancy, lost 11.5p to 320p as Warburg Dillon Read offered caution.

Prudential Corporation firmed 2p to 82p following a presentation for its US offshoot Jackson National; a US quote for the Pru seems to be on the cards. GRE, the old Guardian Royal Exchange, was back in the takeover spotlight, jumping 9p to 292p in a late flurry of trading.

British American Tobacco firmed a further 6.5p to 323.5p on hopes of a US smoking and health settlement, but Pearson fell 31p to 1,000p as further difficulties seemed to loom over its US Simon & Schuster deal. The US fund which has agreed to buy part of S&S wants to cut the price it agreed to pay.

Granada continued to encounter anxiety over the ONdigital launch, falling 26p to 860p. Its digital partner, Carlton Communications, firmed 9.5p to 412.5p. Lehman Brothers is encouraged by ONdigital's prospects. It believes the digital interest is worth 35p a Granada share and 46p a Carlton share. Analyst Julien Roch says: "We see ONdigital as an investment of little risk for Granada... which could bear high rewards." The shares are regarded as a buy.

Zeneca firmed 2p to 2,288p following its decision to sell its specialities division, which could fetch up to £1bn.

Danka Business Systems had another difficult session, off 6p to 63p. The hard-pressed group underlined its change of fortunes with half-year losses of £1.7m against

a \$43m profit. The shares have crashed from almost 850p in the past two years.

Ladbroke's trading statement lifted the shares 6.5p to 231.5p. But BT fell 35p to 808p, registering

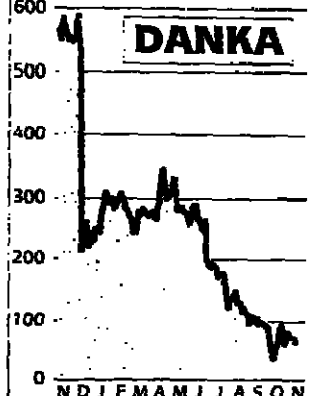
WITH BEER and cider corporate action taking place, can a Scotch whisky bid be far behind? Burn Stewart, the hard-pressed group, jumped 6p to 19p. The whisky producer, specialising in own-label brands, has had a difficult time. Floated at 140p seven years ago, the shares touched 160p but have been down to 10.5p. It could be that its fortunes are improving but it is more likely buyers are anticipating bid action.

disappointment that it was not raising its cash pile for a special dividend or a share buy-back.

Debenhams hardened to 382.5p as HSBC upgraded but Next was torn 19p to 471p after ABN Amro reduced its profit forecasts by 25m to

SHARE SPOTLIGHT

share price, pence



£158m and by £10m to £168m. It regards the shares as overvalued.

Exporters were tortured by sterling's renewed strength. Engineer Siebe weakened 9p to 225p and Rolls-Royce 7p to 233p.

A rash of profit warnings from under-card currency-sensitive shares also rattled sentiment. United Overseas warned about second-half profits and fell 18.5p to

27.5p; engineer Haden Maclellan gave up 22.5p to 59.5, after saying year's figures would be below expectations, and lower profits from Oxford Instruments clipped the shares 45p to 167.5p.

BICC was back in the spotlight with buyers still banking on a demerger of the cable and construction group or a takeover bid for the whole group. In busy trading, Seag put turnover at almost 21.5 million shares, the price hardened 3p to 57p. Four years ago BICC was riding at 465p. Early this week the group met analysts to present its case and try to ease speculation of corporate activity.

Computer group MR lost 14p to 85.5p after a downbeat trading statement, and World Telecom softened 21p to 75p following a warning that losses would be higher than expected. Heritage Bathrooms steamed

a further 16p higher to 212.5p as a 220p-a-share offer duly appeared. Allied Carpets remained just short of bid action with the shares holding at 53p in busy trading. One buyer for 66,000 was prepared to pay more than 55p.

Delta, the electrical group, put on 7p to 140p in brisk trading. The market expects a bid. At one time TT was the favourite to pounce but the acquisitive engineer sold most of its share stake.

Graham, the builders merchant, added 7.5p to 136.5p on hopes of a CRH bid. Rage Software, the computer games group, shaded to 9.5p. It has switched stockbrokers, moving from Durlacher to Teather & Greenwood.

Express Dairies rose 5p to 155p. BT Alex Brown and Charterhouse Tinsley rate the shares a buy. The investment houses expect profits of around £60.5m this year and further progress next year. City Centre Restaurants attracted attention, gaining 7.5p to 69p.

SEAQ VOLUME: 814.3m
SEAQ TRADES: 52,560
GILT INDEX: n/a

Testing time ahead for Capital Radio

THE NEXT six months should prove crucial in establishing whether one of the old problems of commercial radio stations has been successfully cured.

In the last recession, radio advertising suffered an alarming fall because it was not well established in clients' media spending plans. Radio advertising is now much more robust as a medium, but even so, a hard landing in the economy would prove wounding. Some local newspaper groups, for example, are already seeing a softening in recruitment advertising.

This said, Capital Radio looks one of the most solid companies in the sector. Yesterday's full year profits of £37.7m, up 8 per cent, were below some expectations but the company looks to be struggling off the disappointments of losing out in the bidding for Virgin Radio, which cost it almost £1m in adviser's fees.

Capital has expanded its radio business with the acquisition of the Red Dragon and Xfm stations in May. Radio advertising is strong with big clients like Procter & Gamble signed to long-term contracts and there is no hint yet of the slowdown having an impact. Advertising revenues grew by six per cent and margins edged up from 36.9-38.2 per cent.

Capital's brand remains strong and its stations are market leaders in its regions. This should stand the group in good stead in a weakening economy and the battle for advertising spending intensifies.

The restaurants business, which has suffered from management problems at the old My Kinda Town business, improved profits to £2.3m. The portfolio has been rationalised to concentrate on Capital's core broadcasting regions and going forward the division will concentrate on just two concepts, the Radio Cafes and Havana Latin American restaurants.

On Panmure, Gordon's current year profit forecasts of £41m the shares - unchanged at 563.5p yesterday - trade on a forward multiple of 15. If the

INVESTMENT

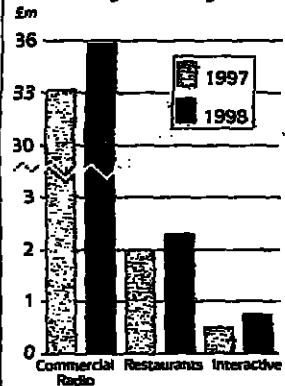
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CAPITAL RADIO: AT A GLANCE

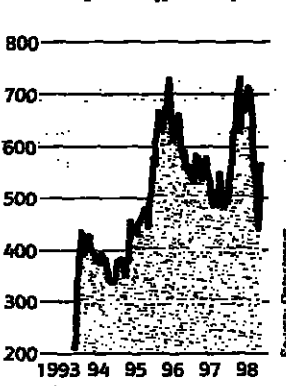
Market value: £416.5m, share price: 562.5p (+0p)

Trading record	94	95	96	97	98
Turnover (£m)	51.7	67.3	77.7	113.8	117.2
Pre-tax profits (£m)	22.1	39.9	32.1	35.2	37.8
Earnings per share (p)	22.8	36.2	29.4	32.1	35.0
Dividends per share (p)	7.25	10.25	12.5	13.75	15.25

Profit by activity



Share price (pence)



economy drifts towards a soft landing that could look good value. But even on more pessimistic forecasts the shares look a decent hold.

Odds lengthen for Ladbroke's

ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTY is lengthening the odds on Ladbroke's being a winner. The hotels and betting business is feeling the strain of the slowdown in the UK and the global economic meltdown. Yesterday's third quarter trading update provided a glimpse of the troubles ahead.

True, profits were around 20 per cent ahead of last year, driven by the World Cup betting bonanza and solid growth in the Hilton European hotels. But Ladbroke's devil is in the detail. On the hotels side, which provides around 60 per cent of group revenue, the terrorist

threat in Kenya and the Middle East has scared off tourists, while the financial turmoil has savaged Asian reservations. In the UK, which contributes half of the division's profits, growth is slowing, especially in London where big corporate customers have slashed travel costs.

The betting division has traditionally been more recession-proof than hotels and underlying growth remains good. However, you can expect a short-term downturn as the World Cup effect wears off, while the forced sale of Coral will deprive Ladbroke of valuable critical mass.

The flop of the new football lottery game "Easy Play", with sales sharply below Ladbroke's expectations, will result in a £9m exceptional loss at the year-end. Looking ahead, much will depend on which way the UK economy goes. If it is a soft landing, Ladbroke should be able to cushion the blow to the hotels business with the steady-

ish earnings of the betting shops. Anything worse than that and 1999's figures could look bleak.

Mixed bag for ED&F Man

ED&F MAN, the commodities turned financial services group delivered underlying profits of £55.3m in the six months to the end of September, an increase of 39 per cent. But a storming performance from asset management and the brokerage business was offset by a poor result from agricultural products and triggered a 10p fall in the shares to 289.5p.

Asset management, which includes offshore investment products aimed at wealthy individuals, generated £45.2m including substantial fee incomes based on successful investment performances. The brokerage business which handles financial futures and foreign exchange as well as energy and metals contributed £10.7m before exceptional costs of £1.3m on two new acquisitions.

But profits from agricultural products slumped to £700,000 from last year's £16.8m at the same stage, suffering heavy losses in sugar and alcohol. Only the ingredients division did well, producing a profit of £7.9m, up 20 per cent on the previous period.

It is hard to see a quick recovery in the agricultural products side although, traditionally, there is a bias in favour of the second half. Financial services are also recession-prone, and it is hard to see further exponential growth, but this company is unique in its sector serving high net worth individuals, and it depends relatively little on the prospects for the UK economy.

Forecasts for the full-year are unchanged at £161m and earnings of £1.5p in the current year rising to £1.8m and earnings of £4.6p next year. At less than nine times forward earnings the shares look a tempting gamble.



John Hall, chief executive of media group Metrodome (with doll), and his finance director Howard Mighell

Boss left holding the baby

YOU KNOW the Christmas shopping frenzy is upon us when chief executives agree to be photographed coddling Cabbage Patch dolls.

John Hall reversed two of his companies into Metrodome in February and became chief executive of the AIM-listed media group. This Saturday

Mr Hall is launching the film *The Cabbage Patch Kids* at more than 50 cinemas across the UK. Saturday is the fifteenth anniversary of the birth of the Cabbage Patch phenomenon. There are now 86 million of the creatures in the world.

The idea is that you "adopt" one of the dolls as if it were a real child. So will Mr Hall be giving the dolls to his children this Christmas, I ask? "My daughter is 26 and my son 22," he laughs. "But my finance director Howard Mighell will."

Mr Hall added that Mr Mighell did not want to hold the baby on the photoshoot as "he is already going through the terrible two's at home".

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

ations in the hour-long session. More than 5,000 people logged on to the site, yet the DTI only managed to process just over a dozen queries. Perhaps the DTI should look to its own productivity.

The questions were supposed to be about Europe, but the best inquiries ignored this completely. For instance, a Simon Russell asked: "Do you think your nickname 'Steady Eddie' is apt, and if so do you take it as a compliment?"

The Governor tapped back: "It's a compliment."

Then "John Moore from Caterham" let rip: "When will you work it out that your interest rate policy has destroyed the economy - and why is it that you can't see the way 'lag' works when using interest rates is by the time you've got it have already done the damage - explain".

Steady Eddie then earned his nickname as he calmly replied: "One has to keep this in proportion - the economy has been growing at 3 per cent for the last five years and unemployment is at its lowest level for the past 18 years - that is not a destroyed economy."

The Governor added that he was conscious that some bits of the economy were hurting "severely", but regrettably the economy as a whole needed to be slowed down.

"If inflation were allowed to take off, we would not avoid the slow down, we would just arrive at it later," he concluded.

THE Financial Services Authority (FSA) is determined not to live in an "ivory tower" - despite moving to a giant skyscraper in Canary Wharf which Her Majesty the Queen will open next Wednesday.

Howard Davies, chairman of the FSA, has lured David Challen, chairman of J Henry Schroder & Co, to head up a Practitioner Forum, which will act as a sounding board between the regulator and financial services industry.

Other members named so far will include Barry Martin, President, Fidelity Management; Donald Brydon, Chief Executive, AXA Invest-

ment Managers; Amelia Fawcett, Managing Director, Morgan Stanley Dean Witter; Richard Harvey, Chief Executive, Norwich Union; Brendan Nelson, Chairman, Financial Sector, KPMG; Martha Ritchie, Chief Executive, Coventry Building Society; Paul Spencer, Chief Executive, Royal and Sun Alliance; and Derek Wanless, Chief Executive, NatWest.

The FSA also plans to announce a customer's forum soon, and a smaller practitioners' forum is planned for next year.

YUPPIES and Dinkies should make way for new classifications of consumers, says Christine Walker, head of Walker Media.

Nipples (New Irish Professionals Living in London) and Sitcoms (Single Income, Two Children and Oppressive Mortgage) are more useful terms for marketers nowadays, she says.

Companies should also bear in mind Sinbad's (Single Income, No Boyfriend and Absolutely Desperate), Fanses (Politically Active and Not Seeking Employment) and Puppies (Punjab Upwardly Mobile Professionals).

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES									
Country	Sterling	Spot	1 month	3 month	D-Mark	Spot	1 month	3 month	D-Mark
UK	1.0000				0.6022	0.6030	0.6045	0.6054	0.3564
Australia	2.0219	2.6185	2.6133		1.5789	1.5791	1.5797	1.5804	0.5544
Austria	19.737	19.708	19.683		11.886	11.884	11.880	11.876	7.0341
Canada	2.7471	2.743	2.7404		34.860	34.810	34.700	34.600	20.631
Denmark	10.668	10.646	10.633		1.5501	1.5501	1.5501	1.5501	0.9174
ECU	1.658	1.6233	1.6160		6.4243	6.4204	6.4083	6.3929	3.0405
Finland	8.5313	8.5073	8.4921		5.1375	5.1305	5.1152	5.1000	3.3337
France	9.410	9.383	9.361		1.6897	1.6872	1.6853	1.6834	1.0000
Germany	2.0058	2.0058	2.0058		2.0058	2.0058	2.0058	2.0058	1.0000
Greece	4.0101	4.0101	4.0101		1.6897	1.6872	1.6853	1.6834	1.0000
Hong Kong	12.858	12.848	12.838		1.4721	1.4721	1.4721	1.4721	0.8712
India	1.1780	1.1780	1.1780		1.6720	1.6720	1.6720	1.6720	72.621
Italy	2.0776	2.0776	2.0776		1.7127	1.7127	1.7127	1.7127	2.2460
Japan	203.21	203.21	203.21		3.7950	3.7950	3.7950	3.7950	1.0000
Malaysia	3.8020	3.8020	3.8020		1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Mexico	16.5012	16.5012	16.5012		1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Netherlands	3.1839	3.1839	3.1839		1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
New Zealand	3.1258	3.1258	3.1258		1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Norway	12.495	12.495	12.495		1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Portugal	267.71	267.71	267.71		1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
South Africa	6.2556	6.2556	6.2556		1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Spain	166.36	166.36	166.36		1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Sweden	238.58	238.58	238.58		1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Switzerland	2.3117	2.3117	2.3117		1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
US	1.6606				0.6022	0.6030	0.6045	0.6054	0.3564

INTEREST RATES									
UK	Germany	US	Japan	France	Italy	Spain	Sweden	Switzerland	Other
Base	6.75%	5.00%	6.00%	5.00%	6.00%	6.00%	6.00%	6.00%	6.00%
Discount	5.00%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%
3 month	5.00%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%
6 month	5.00%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%
1 year	5.00%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%
2 year	5.00%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%
3 year	5.00%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%
4 year	5.00%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%
5 year	5.00%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%
10 year	5.00%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%

LIFFE FINANCIAL FUTURES													
Contract	Settlement		High	Low	Est. floor	Open	Interest	Contract	Settlement				
Long Gilt	Dec-98	114.88	115.18	114.42	368.00	114.512	0.00	Long Gilt	Dec-98	114.88			
5 Yr Gilt	Dec-98	107.47				107.47	0.00	5 Yr Gilt	Dec-98	107.47			
German Bund	Dec-98	112.43				112.43	0.00	German Bund	Dec-98	112.43			
Italian Bond	Dec-98	110.88	110.88	110.25	19080.00	110.88	0.00	Italian Bond	Dec-98	110.88			
Japan Gov. Bd	Dec-98	138.99	138.99	138.84	1012.00	138.99	0.00	Japan Gov. Bd	Dec-98	138.99			
3 Mth Sterling	Dec-98	93.22	93.25	93.21	16079.00	93.22	0.00	3 Mth Sterling	Dec-98	93.22			
3 Mth Eurodollar	Dec-98	93.76	93.76	93.71	21207.00	93.76	0.00	3 Mth Eurodollar	Dec-98	93.76			
3 Mth Eurodollar	Dec-98	96.36				96.375	0.00	3 Mth Eurodollar	Dec-98	96.36			
3 Mth Eurodollar	Dec-98	96.42	96.42	96.39	35035.00	96.425	0.00	3 Mth Eurodollar	Dec-98	96.42			
3 Mth Eurodollar	Dec-98	96.29	96.29	96.29	21207.00	96.29	0.00	3 Mth Eurodollar	Dec-98	96.29			
3 Mth Eurodollar	Dec-98	96.57	96.60	96.57	295.00	2754.34	0.00	3 Mth Eurodollar	Dec-98	96.57			
3 Mth Eurodollar	Dec-98	96.42	96.42	96.42	15204.00	96.42	0.00	3 Mth Eurodollar	Dec-98	96.42			
3 Mth Eurodollar	Dec-98	96.40	96.40	96.40	7264.00	96.40	0.00	3 Mth Eurodollar	Dec-98	96.40			
3 Mth Euro	Dec-98	96.36				96.375	451.00	3 Mth Euro	Dec-98	96.36			
3 Mth Euro	Dec-98	96.36	96.37	96.35	451.00	96.375	990.00	3 Mth Euro	Dec-98	96.36			
FISE 100	Dec-98	5481.00	5510.00	5430.00	23113.00	5482.12	0.00	FISE 100	Dec-98	5481.00			
LIFFE FTSE 100 INDEX OPTION													
Settlement Price \$A49.00													
	Mini	Call	Imp	Put	Mini	Call	Imp	Put	Mini	Call	Imp	Put	
5350	283	41	25	34	5350	283	41	25	34	5350	283	41	25
5400	241	35	24	34	5400	241	35	24	34	5400	241	35	24
5450	201	34	44	32	5450	201	34	44	32	5450	201	34	44
5500	164	33	58	32	5500	164	33	58	32	5500	164	33	58

Hussain

Evans near to tears as he leaves Liverpool

ROY EVANS yesterday parted company with Liverpool, the club he has served for 35 years. Evans and David Moores, the Liverpool chairman, made the announcement, and the joint-manager Gérard Houllier takes sole control of the club.

"Today is a sad day for Liverpool and me personally," Moores said. "We have agreed by mutual consent that Roy and Doug Livermore, his assistant, are leaving the club. I would like to pay tribute to all he [Evans] has done for the club for 35 years. I offered Roy another position at the club but he has chosen to have a break. I could talk for hours about Roy and my respect for him."

BY PAUL WALKER

Evans said: "I'd like to thank the chairman and board for the support they have given me. I have felt over the past three or four weeks that things have not been working out. I dispute the theory that my time here has been a failure - fourth, third, fourth, third in my seasons here is not failure. That record is second only to Alex Ferguson at Manchester United."

Asked why he refused to take another post at Anfield, Evans said: "It would be easy to stay, but to give Gérard and his team a chance, you have to walk away. I know I could

have stayed here, but I decided to make a complete break. I didn't want to end as a ghost on the wall."

Of his future, Evans said: "I don't know what I will do. I just want to get this over today. I cannot imagine working at another club. I am 50, not exactly old and not ready for the dustbin. I want to relax a bit. I want this club to get on - that is the most important thing."

Evans was asked if it was fair that he took the blame for failure. "It is not a matter of one man taking the blame. It is what is in the best interests of the club. I went into the partnership with Gérard with my eyes open and hoping it could work.

It hasn't worked. Results have not gone our way."

Almost in tears, he added: "It is not about the relationship between me and Gérard. It had nothing to do with personalities. It just did not work out. You just feel it is not the right formula for players. They do not know who the boss is."

Moores added: "We have to go forward. It is sad for me personally because I have known Roy as a teenager, but you have to think of the club. It always comes first."

Moores confirmed that Phil Thompson, the former Liverpool defender and coach, will be returning to the club as assistant manager.

The chairman said: "Phil is passionate about the club and desperately wants success."

Houllier, who will be in sole charge against Leeds at Anfield tomorrow, sat alongside his new assistant and said: "This morning was one of the saddest and most emotional moments of my Liverpool days. I spent some time with Roy in my office, knowing that was the end of our partnership."

"Being the sole manager, I asked if we could have an assistant manager who had a Liverpool heart, if you like, a Liverpool figure. They recommended Phil."

"I am not going to cheat, I am

not going to tell you I have known Phil for a long time."

Houllier indicated that he would be entering the transfer market sooner rather than later. "We need some players," he admitted. "It is not easy because there is not a lot around. We do need some players and I have the assurance that I have the financial backing for that."

Thompson said: "There might be a few hearts getting broken. I've been brought to bring in a kick-up-the-backside to a lot of players. I think most people realise this is one of the greatest days of my life."

"I got a shock yesterday when I was about to take part in a five-a-

side. I was getting changed when Peter Robinson [the Anfield vice-chairman] phoned. That's the way it happened. It was a major, major shock to me. I thought my time had passed. I have been involved in the game but not at this level."

Houllier split out his immediate plans yesterday. "The next game [against Leeds] is the most important one. Maybe things have not been going too well. Maybe we need to improve the fluidity of the game. We need to get some players in to reinforce the team. We are here because the players did not kick the ball the right way. We cannot kick the ball for the players."

The Dane who has earned greatness

Guy Hodgson looks back on the Old Trafford career of one of the world's outstanding goalkeepers

IT IS debatable how many Manchester United players would feel confident enough to say it, but Brian McClair was willing to tease. "It must be wonderful to have the power to make so many people delirious with mirth," he said to Peter Schmeichel, who was mulling over a grotesque miskick that had allowed Barnsley an FA Cup goal last season. The goalkeeper's reply is not printable.

But McClair was right. If the nation - or the Manchester United-hating part of it - had been given a vote on the most glorious football moment last year, then the great Dane's lapse last February would only have been topped by Michael Owen's goal against Argentina.

To put it succinctly, Schmeichel, who yesterday announced he will leave Old Trafford at the end of the season, is despised. Not because he appears arrogant, not because he has the gall to rant at his own players, but because he is so very good. From the moment he walks on to the pitch, hoofing the ball into space and brandishing a towel over his shoulder like a matador's cape, he seems the embodiment of a perceived United superiority complex.

That is fine in a player prone to temperamental lapses like Eric Cantona - you have something to gloat about - but there were whole seasons when Schmeichel never seemed to make a mistake. In 1994-95, for example, when he conceded only 18 goals in the League and United still finished runners-up, or the following year when he, even more than Le Ro, was responsible for Alex Ferguson's team overhauling Newcastle.

The title "A Rage For Perfection" has already been used for a book about John McEnroe, but it could easily have fitted the Dane, whose volcanic eruptions became a trademark as much as his saves. He expected exemplary performances from his defenders as much as he demanded them from himself and, like Cantona, when he could not guarantee them, he chose to leave United.

While Cantona left football completely, Schmeichel, who will be 35 next Wednesday, has chosen to move abroad, where the physical demands are less. "I am enjoying the game as much as ever," he said yesterday, "but it is getting harder to keep pace. I need to train more than I have ever had to in order to prepare myself properly. I need more time between games than I can get in England."

His going will virtually complete the dismantling of Ferguson's first great side which won United their first championship in 26 years in 1992-93 and the Double the follow-

ing season. Only Denis Irwin and Ryan Giggs (astonishingly, still only 24) remain of the side which the manager describes as his best.

No one could downplay Schmeichel's role in ending that drought. Most Danes have "great" appended as a description if they show any aptitude but he justified it more than anybody. From the moment he strode confidently into Old Trafford in August 1991 for the laughably small fee of £550,000, his immense presence was apparent. Within games he was being called the best United goalkeeper since Alex Stepney, within months that compliment was exposed as far too lacking in substance.

When he first met Wimbledon's "in the mixer" long-ball tactics he was knocked back both physically and mentally. "This is not football," he kept appealing to the referee, but when the official ignored him he persisted in coming for and winning the ball.

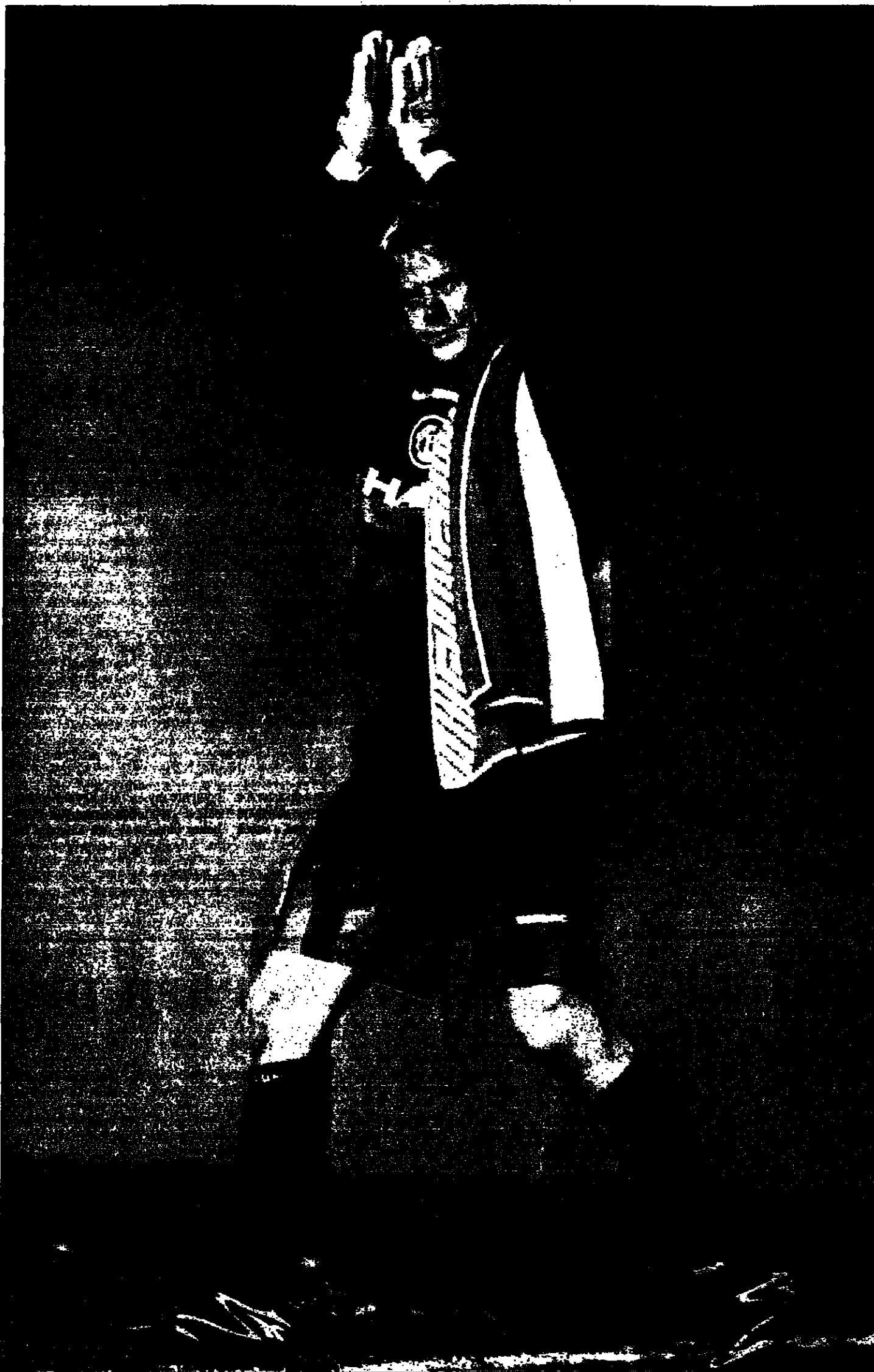
Having learned that lesson, he became the most physically imposing goalkeeper in the Premiership, commanding his area in a way that even David Seaman could not match. His sling-shot arms also had attacking potential and many United raids were launched by his javelin throws to the wing.

His honours - four championships, two FA Cups, 107 caps and leading Denmark to the European Championship in 1992 - makes picking one performance invidious, but most United supporters would plump for St James' Park on March 4, 1996. For 45 minutes Kevin Keegan's Newcastle, fast and furious, ripped United's defence to shreds and yet they could not score because Schmeichel loomed, colossus-like, between the posts. Cantona got the goal that night, but it was the goalkeeper who won the points.

Even genius cannot sustain such levels for long and this season Schmeichel, who has been plagued with persistent back problems, has looked diminished.

His handling has been unsure and his mistake against Bayern Munich cost United two Champions' League points. He is still a good goalkeeper, but greatness might have passed him by and the chance to recapture that surely influenced yesterday's decision.

The chance to bow out of Old Trafford by winning the European Cup remains, however, and in January he will be among the nominated candidates when the European goalkeeper of the century is announced. It is a measure of his ability that, if he wins, there will not be howls of protest.



Manchester United action man: Peter Schmeichel has ranted, soared and dived to bring the trophies to Old Trafford Empics

Listed Sharpe keen to show his worth

LEE SHARPE, placed on the transfer list yesterday by Leeds United, believes he can do for his next club what Marc Overmars has done for Arsenal.

Howard Wilkinson might have been thinking along similar lines when he paid Manchester United £4.5m to bring him to Elland Road just over two years ago. The move had not proved particularly successful for the 27-year-old former England winger - and Sharpe has been told by Leeds' new manager, David O'Leary, that he did not figure in his future plans.

His chance of reproducing the exciting form he showed in his early career was hampered by a knee ligament injury pre-season last year, which ruled him out of the entire 1997-98 campaign. Although he started the opening game of this season, neither O'Leary nor his predecessor, George Graham, have given him a run in the side.

Sharpe believes he still has what it takes to perform at the highest level. He said: "If I'm not going to be part of David's plans then I've got to swallow my pride, suck the lemon, wipe my mouth and move on to the next thing in life. The last thing I need now is to be sitting on the bench and not being involved. It has been 18 months now since I had a run, I just need games."

Fulham have been linked with Sharpe, but it is more likely that Southampton, Everton or Sheffield Wednesday could make a move, while Benfica have also been mentioned.

Money will also play its part as Leeds will want to recoup as much as possible of the £4.5m fee they paid for Sharpe. O'Leary is refusing to set any minimum limit, although it is believed around £1.5m would be enough to see him move away from a club where he has made only 37 league and cup appearances in 28 months.

Halifax Town have banned their captain, Kevin Hulme, for two weeks for his part in a 20-player brawl during the Third Division match against Chester on Tuesday. The midfielder, who has also been also fined a fortnight's wages, will miss tonight's FA Cup first-round tie at Manchester City.

Halifax's chairman, Jim Brown, said: "The match video makes horrific viewing. The things happening on the field were disgraceful and Halifax Town Football Club cannot and will not tolerate scenes like that."

Hulme, shown a red card along with Chester's Chris Priest for violent conduct, attempted to chase after his opposite number as Priest made his way down the tunnel but was restrained by his player-manager, Kieran O'Regan, and stewards.

Halifax will also be without the striker Steve Guinan, as he has returned to Nottingham Forest after a one-month loan spell.

For their part, City will have to make enforced changes. The defender Richard Edgill is ruled out with a suspected broken toe and the striker Michael Branch, on loan from Everton, is ineligible. But the captain, Jamie Pollock, is back in the squad after a hernia operation and suspension as Royle bids to bounce back from the mid-week League defeat at Wycombe.

"Halifax are flying at the moment and they will provide a very tough test for us," Royle said. "If we play to our full potential we can win. The lads are ready for it and a good Cup run would bring in much-needed cash. We have to make Maine Road a fortress."

The last time the two clubs met was in the third round of the Cup on 3 January 1990 when Halifax, of the Fourth Division, beat then First Division City 1-0 at The Shay.

The Under-18 tournament in Israel that England were scheduled to play in has been postponed at the last minute due to the worsening political situation in Iraq. European football's governing body, Uefa, has called off next week's event, involving Spain, Andorra and Israel, after a plea from the Football Association.

Bolton suffer £17m financial burden of Burnden

BOLTON WANDERERS announced yesterday that they have debts of £17m owing to their difficulties selling Burnden Park.

The First Division club's plight was revealed in figures by their parent company, Burnden Leisure plc. Even the sale of striker Nathan Blake to Blackburn for £4.25m has made little difference, and there could be other departures.

Bolton lost £4.7m last year in the Premier League, and they have borrowed £13m anticipating the sale of Burnden Park. There have been major difficulties selling the old sta-

BY ALAN NIXON

dium because of planning permission trouble, however.

The Blackburn goalkeeper, Tim Flowers, is facing an arm operation that could keep him out for a month. He needs surgery on elbow and shoulder problems that have been dogging him all season as Rovers have struggled. The England international is arranging a date for the work to be done and hopes to avoid missing too many games while he recovers. Blackburn's manager, Roy Hodgson, will give the Aus-

tralian John Flan the jersey during the absence of Flowers. He is also just back from injury. The Flowers blow is the latest to rock Blackburn in a campaign that is the worst Hodgson has known for injuries.

Celtic are negotiating with Blackburn to sign their promising goalkeeper, Steve Banks, to help them out of a crisis. The Parkhead club are speaking to the Second Division outfit about a proposed £600,000 switch for Banks. They have some key fixtures coming up, including the Old Firm match next weekend.

Banks has earned rave reviews

for the past couple of years and has been a target for months. Injuries to Jonathan Gould and Stuart Kerr have forced the Glasgow club to act.

Rangers' head coach, Dick Advocaat, is in talks with the veteran German goalkeeper, Andreas Köpke. The Dutchman hopes to recruit the 36-year-old who has walked out on his French club, Marseilles, after a dispute with their coach.

The Ibrox chairman, David Murray, has given the go-ahead for the signing of a stop-gap after the Frenchman Lionel Charbonnier was ruled out for the rest of the season

with knee trouble. Köpke has played in Europe this season, so he could not appear for Rangers in the UEFA Cup and would only be eligible domestically. Borussia Dortmund are also keen on him.

Dundee are on course to upgrade their Dens Park ground in time for next season, in line with Premier League guidelines.

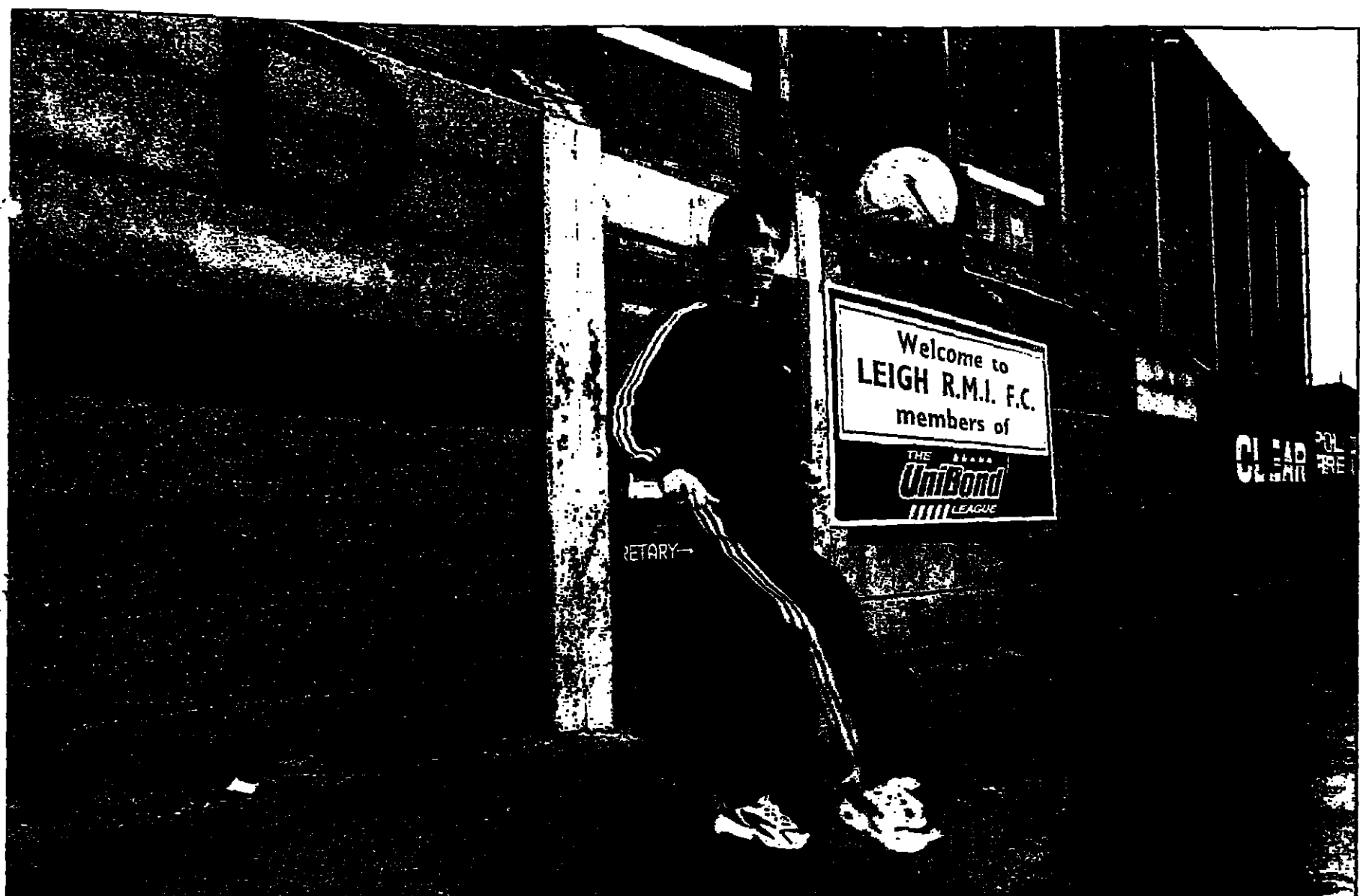
Work on the stadium will begin early in the New Year after new funding packages for a £2.7m redevelopment were confirmed yesterday. The Tayside club are indebted to the Scottish Sports Council Lottery

Sports Fund, who have weighed in with £2m, and the Football Trust.

They have donated £366,800 and also given Dundee a £200,000 loan for the work which will bring the capacity to a 10,090 all-seater stadium.

Huddersfield have decided not to pursue their interest in Jamaica's World Cup captain, Ian Goodison, who had been on trial at the McAlpine Stadium. He played in two reserve games, but Town's manager, Peter Jackson, said: "Ian did quite well for us while he played here, but to be honest he is not the sort of player I am looking for."

JP 11/11/98



Peter Smyth, of Leigh RMI, practises outside the club's Hilton Park ground before the glamorous trip to London and Sunday's date with Fulham. Rui Vieira

Full steam ahead at Leigh



THERE ARE many splendid names in football, Billingham Synthonia being a personal favourite, but few are more redolent of football's past than Leigh RMI. It is not the Leigh that attracts, indeed, many people in Lancashire find that most offensive but the initials which stand for Railway Mechanics' Institute. You can almost hear the steam hiss.

Professional football and the iron horse went hand in hand in the 19th century and it was the giants of the industry who formed the first teams, including Newton Heath Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, who you might know as Manchester United. RMI were their equals then, a branch line of the same company 20 miles away. A slight distance has, opened between them since.

That was RMI's big time, and they have only hinted at a revival subsequently. Two trips to the FA Cup's first round when the initials were prefaced with the name of their original home town, Horwich, and a few trophies acquired in the minor leagues of the north-west but, their

The FA Cup draw has produced a classic David v Goliath tie that has Leigh RMI buzzing. Guy Hodgson reports

evocative name apart, they have been largely anonymous.

Until Sunday, that is, when the UniBond League Premier Division side face Kevin Keegan's Fulham, Mohammed Al Fayed's millions and all, in the first round of the FA Cup. At this stage it is the closest you are going to get to the David versus Goliath contests that sustain the competition.

"It's frightening," Steve Waywell, the manager who will be the equal of Keegan for the only time of his life, said. "But nice because it gives our lads a chance to play against internationals. They're in the Second Division but if they were in the First they'd be pushing for the Premiership. I know that for a fact. We're going to have to be on our game just to live with them."

Waywell, 47, was a professional footballer himself, but was one of only two members of the Burnley Youth Cup-winning team of the 1960s not to make it to the first XI.

His team-mate, Dave Thomas, went on to play for England; disillusioned, he declined a chance of a trial with Halifax Town and joined the non-League ranks.

He played for Darwen, Rossendale, Stalybridge, Hyde, and Horwich (playing against Blackpool when they last reached the Cup's first round) and returned to manage the club in the last game of the 1995-96 season. Since then he has overseen one promotion and last year the club only just missed out on another rise in status to the GM Vauxhall Conference.

The success has partly spoiled, bruised opinion which resented RMI leaving Horwich to become Leigh in 1994. The move was seen as a betrayal at the time, even though they were trying out the Rugby League club rather than moving in as tenants, and only recently have crowds risen again to around 350. The cup run seems to have broken the last remnants of resistance and around 2,000 supporters will travel to Craven Cottage on Sunday.

"The club is buzzing," Waywell said. "We've had Sky, Granada, the BBC, everybody at the ground. Everyone wants to be involved with us. I only hope we do ourselves justice because at the back of your mind you always fear you're going to get a trouncing. I'll be happy if we play to our capabilities."

"Manchester City went, Preston went, Burnley, Oldham, and I thought: 'There's only Runcorn left', which would have been a disaster for us. I thought the draw was still done on a regional basis so it was a shock when we got Fulham. Apart from City, it's the best we could get."

No-one knows how much Leigh will make from the tie, but £30,000 is a fair estimate which, for a club whose record transfer is less than a seventh of that, is a windfall comparable to millions at Old Trafford.

As a consequence they will travel down on Saturday in the full-time manner. "We're doing it right because it could mean the difference of two goals on Sunday," Waywell said. "When we were at Blackpool it was 'get on the coach, get changed and play'. If we'd prepared better we might have got a result. The score flattered them because it was 0-0 for more than an hour until tiredness got hold of us and we lost 3-0."

"People are looking at the Fulham game and saying 'it's your Cup final, it's a holiday' but we can't think like that. We have to be professional. Then the players will have no excuses."

Waywell was a great admirer of Newcastle United in the Messianic period and is excited he will be meeting the Fulham manager. "I can't compare myself with Kevin Keegan, can I? He's been European Footballer of the Year, an England international and manager of Newcastle. I can't say I'm pitting my wits against him, because we're so different. People tell me he's a smashing bloke and he's invited us out while we're down there."

A date with Keegan and fashionable west London. For RMI, read VIP this Sunday.

Back puts defender Babb out of Ireland squad

PHIL BABB is out of the Republic of Ireland squad for Wednesday's European Championship qualifier against Yugoslavia in Belgrade.

The Liverpool defender has not played club football since injuring a bone in his back after colliding with an upright against Chelsea five weeks ago. With 19 players in the squad, no replacement has been called up.

There has still been no resolution of the club v country dispute, with the Football Association of Ireland

insisting that its Under-21 squad assemble in Dublin tonight and the full senior squad at noon tomorrow.

Earlier, FIFA had suggested that the FAI and the English FA negotiate with the clubs with a view to a relaxation on the five-day release of players, enabling them to line up for their clubs tomorrow. The FAI has rejected that suggestion.

About 1,000 Irish fans intend to travel to the game which was originally scheduled for 10 October, but postponed until next Wednesday.

and Yugoslav authorities have confirmed that the Irish fans will not have to purchase new visas to enter Yugoslavia.

Manchester United will dig up and re-turf most of the Old Trafford pitch on Sunday after the game against Blackburn. Ground staff will have 14 days to complete the work before the next home game against Leeds. The pitch was re-laid during the summer but cut up in last Sunday's 0-0 draw with Newcastle.

Crystal Palace were yesterday served with a writ for more than £1m for a defaulted loan payment due to the club's former owner, Ron Noades. Alfordwood Ltd, a company owned by Noades, served the writ after Palace's chairman, Mark Gold, failed to make a £50,000 loan repayment due to the company last month.

The Oxford United winger, Joey Beauchamp, has asked for time to think over a £200,000 move to Nottingham Forest.

John Barnwell has insisted the

League Managers' Association is not up in arms at the continuing trend of club chairmen becoming managers - but the LMA chief executive warned of a conflict of interest in certain situations.

Lincoln City's chairman, John Reames, this week joined Noades and Carlisle's Michael Knighton in assuming control of team affairs, but Barnwell said: "I don't think these men are really the managers. They all employ coaches to carry out the football side of things."

Rusedski continues his march

GREG RUSEDISKI's superb run continued yesterday when he powered into the third round of the Stockholm Open at the expense of the American, Vince Spadea.

The British No 2, still on a high from his victory over Pete Sampras in the final of the Paris Indoor Open, swept aside Spadea 6-1, 6-4. The win keeps alive Rusedski's hopes of qualifying for the lucrative end-of-season ATP Tour World Championships in Hanover.

Rusedski, broken by Spadea for the first time in the tournament, said: "I'm just taking one step at a time. I have a difficult opponent in the quarter-finals."

Meeting a Canadian in the quarters does not mean Rusedski will be extra-motivated. "It won't be different than any other match," he said. "I played Daniel at Wimbledon in last meeting and I won in straight sets. It's just going to be another match out there really. I've known him since I was young and we both played a few times in juniors as well. It's going to be a good match."

The Briton, the world's top indoor player this year with 31 victories, was referring to Daniel Nestor, his quarter-final opponent. Nestor, ranked only 115th in the world, beat the French sixth-seed, Cedric Pioline, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, in his second-round match yesterday.

Spadea broke Rusedski at 3-3 in the second set when he hit a forehand volley wide. Spadea had a 40-15 advantage in the next game, but Rusedski broke him back to lead 4-3 and then held his serve the rest of the way to close out the match in just over an hour, after the American had saved four match points in the last game.

Britain's No 1 player, Tim Henman, will face the Swede Magnus Gustafsson in the quarter-finals.

Pete Sampras could be knocked off the top of the world rankings just days before he embarks on the final leg of his attempt to rewrite tennis history. Sampras is attempting to finish the year at No 1 for an unprecedented sixth successive time. But a

loss by Japan's Ai Sugiyama to Monica Seles or a win by Graf against the Russian Elena Likhovtseva in the second round would enable Graf to qualify, along with Romania's Irina Spilaea.

Graf's qualification would see eight current or former champions in the field for the first time - Graf, Lindsay Davenport, Martina Hingis, Jana Novotna, Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, Seles, Mary Pierce, and Conchita Martinez.

Going into yesterday's matches, a loss by Japan's Ai Sugiyama to Monica Seles or a win by Graf against the Russian Elena Likhovtseva in the second round would enable Graf to qualify, along with Romania's Irina Spilaea.

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Busy Canterbury will take some stopping

IN A full weekend of National League and third-round cup matches for the men and women, two double attractions will catch the eye on Sunday.

Current Premier Division leaders, Canterbury men - who should return with the points from Hounslow tomorrow - entertain Cambridge City in the Cup, while the women are at home to Wimbledon in the League and then entertain Worcester Norton from the C Division of the Midlands League on Sunday. It should be an all-conquering weekend for the Kent club.

Canterbury's weekend is likely to be less productive, particularly on Sunday when the men entertain Reading and the women take on the formidable Slough. Win or lose, Havant plan to make it a memorable day as they introduce the Berkshire clubs to their new Desso water-based artificial turf pitch.

Since winning the Cup in 1980 and

the first of their three National League titles the following season, Havant have been in the doldrums for the past couple of years. Currently third in Division One under Peter Freer, their new Australian coach, the fightback is on.

Havant's women have long lived in the shadow of their men's team, but now, under coach John Wright - at the men's helm when the club won every domestic trophy before he departed to coach the national sides of Zimbabwe and Greece - are beginning to make their mark.

Sandy Broad, the women's captain, commented: "To draw Slough in the Cup is a fantastic opportunity for all the girls at Havant. I know they will give the game their all and enjoy the occasion and, who knows, anything can happen in the cup."

Cuba race to world whitewash

CUBA CONFIRMED their status as the undisputed top women's team by retaining the World Championship with a 3-0 win over China in the final in Osaka yesterday.

Cuba's 15-4, 16-14, 15-13 victory allowed them to complete a gold medal double, their two World championships combining with back-to-back Olympic titles in 1992 and 1996.

Except for Cuba's new skintight strip, little had changed in the two years since the countries met in the Olympic final in Atlanta, where the Cubans prevailed by the same scoreline.

China, who landed back-to-back World titles in 1982 and 1986, meekly surrendered the opening set but offered more resistance in the second and third, though without significantly tilting the balance.

The Cubans also took most of the individual awards, including World's best player, which went to Regla Torres Herrera.

ATHLETICS
Charges of sexual misconduct and attempted rape against the Norwegian track coach, Kjell Arve Husby, were dropped yesterday due to a lack of evidence. Husby, 45, had been accused of sexually harassing two of his female athletes, one of whom claimed he also tried to rape her. Prior to the charges he was best known as the man who coached the middle-distance runner Veljko Rodal to the Olympic 800m gold at Atlanta in 1996. Rodal fired the coach immediately after the allegations first surfaced. "I have no comment to make," he said yesterday.

BASKETBALL
The power forward and 11-times All-Star team member, Karl Malone, has announced his intention to move on after 13 years with Utah Jazz. Malone, who has helped Utah to two NBA final appearances in the last two years, expressed a wish to play for the Los Angeles Lakers in an announcement on his Salt Lake City radio show.

WRESTLING
The European Wrestling Championships in Zagreb, Croatia, will be held from 15-19 November. The event will feature 11 weight classes and 11 nations.

BOXING
Kevin Lueghing has been cleared to fight Nicky Thurbin in Chesham tomorrow evening. The Beckenham fighter thought his licence had been suspended after irregularities showed up on a brain scan. However, John Morris, the General Secretary of the British Boxing Board of Control, said: "Kevin jumped the gun. He is free to box, but the Board will insist on further tests after each contest to ensure there is no a problem."

FOOTBALL
Stockport have signed the 28-year-old midfielder Rob Matthews from Bury for £120,000. Matthews, who scored Bury's equaliser against County last month, has signed a two-and-a-half year deal. The England Under-21 manager, Peter Taylor, has agreed to take charge of the Nationwide League representative squad for a match against an Italian Serie B side on 25 November at Villa Park.

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TODAY'S NUMBER

258

The number of miles per hour for the British land speed record, held since 1981 by Richard Noble. A British team will attempt to break the record next Tuesday at Elvington Airfield in Yorkshire.

TIZZARD THE RACING BLIZZARD P28 • WHAT MAKES HOULLIER TICK? P27

Pressure tells on Schmeichel

Reuters

I have been amazed by the hatred shown by some of the opposing fans towards Manchester United. I have gone home from games sometimes and wondered why I bothered. We have been kicked when trying to get on the coach and I have lost count of how many times I have been spat at.

Millennium Gift Aid Made Easy

55 من الاصل

THE INDEPENDENT

13 November 1998

FRIDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



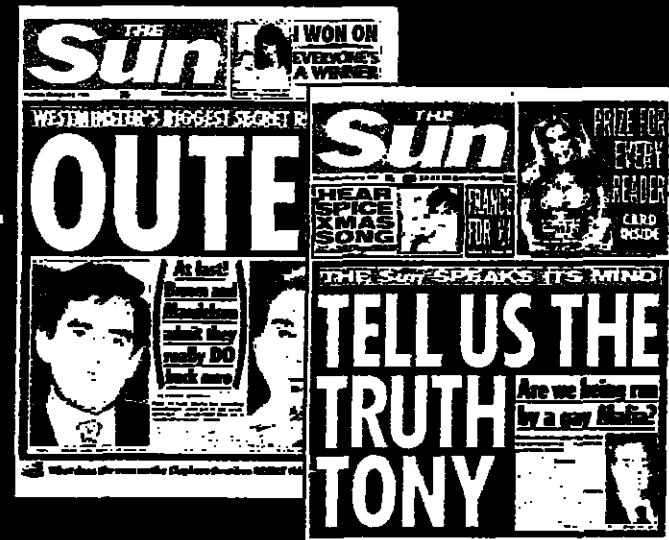
Portrait: Tom Pflaum

EXCLUSIVE

YOU COULDN'T MAKE IT UP



The Sun says: 'Hands off our gays'.
Then it says: 'Is there a gay mafia?'
Is David Yelland the most volatile
tabloid editor in Britain?
We think you should be told



BY DONALD MACINTYRE

The famous slogan is still there on the door to the newsroom: "Walk tall. You are now entering Sun country." And here on a leather and chrome chair in a relatively modest side office, sits the man in charge. In this month's list of the 300 most powerful men in Britain he only ranks 73rd - "only" because many would put David Yelland, for five months editor of the country's biggest selling newspaper, a lot higher than that. And he works, of course, for the list's No2 - Rupert Murdoch.

For a man that powerful, let it be said, Yelland is youthful, friendly, quiet, thoughtful-seeming, about as far removed from the bawling kind of tabloid editor as you could imagine. But it's been another big week in the roller-coaster life of the paper since he took over. A fortnight ago, *The Sun* appeared to break new liberal ground with a sympathetic editorial after the "outing" of Peter Mandelson by Matthew Parris on BBC Television.

Then this week on Monday, in the wake of what many people in the Labour Party and beyond regard as the indefensible intrusion into the private life of the Agriculture Minister Nick Brown, *The Sun* produced a front-page editorial questioning - without a shred of evidence - whether there was a "gay mafia" running Britain - together with some merciless and - though Yelland does not accept the charge - homophobic mockery of Mr Brown as he tried to go about his business as a minister.

Let's start, however, with the story of the day. In the midst of all this, Matthew Parris is sacked from his column in *The Sun*, and the paper's editorial announces that it will not out gays - unless "we believe it can be defended on the grounds of overwhelming public interest".

So what's going on? Well, says Yelland, the decision to part with Parris was taken during a think tank in Dublin on the papers' development. "I have a great deal of respect for Matthew especially what he does for *The Times* I don't think he does his best stuff for *The Sun*. Yes, the *Newsnight* episode was a factor as he had told Parris. But "He's taken that to mean that Peter Mandelson put pressure on us." Mandelson did not even know about it, let alone press for Parris's departure.

But how on earth does that high-minded approach square with the coverage of Nick Brown, outed by his sister paper the *News of the World*?

"I think you're confusing lots of issues here. There's a difference between outing people, which requires invading people's privacy and telling the entire world that somebody is homosexual when they don't want it to be known, which we'll no longer do. And there's a difference between that and ... getting the debate going. That's what we do. That's what I see my job as doing, sometimes in a very controversial way ... My job is basically to cause the maximum controversy without actually ruining people's lives."

Though he won't discuss it, Yelland's view appears to be that neither he nor *The Sun* who carried the original revelation about Nick Brown - and according to some *Sun* sources would not have done. And that they had tapes from the young man who had had a relationship with Mr Brown and easily could have run a story - indeed certainly would have done five years ago.

Yelland rejects any suggestion that his paper's policy towards gay sexuality has hunched from one extreme to another. "I'm not saying that all our readers absolutely love homosexuals ..." but presumably quite a lot of *Sun* readers actually are gay? "Of course. We've got 10 million readers. The days when people discrimi-

nate openly or even privately [against gays] are passing. Whether it's passed yet is a question mark. *The Sun* has to be ahead of the curve partly because that's our job, its the way we've always been seen, but partly because we can affect the debate."

But hang on. Are suggestions of a "gay mafia" "ahead of the curve?" I put it to Yelland that with some experience of covering British politics I have never noticed the slightest evidence that gay politicians especially club together - much less plot with each other any more than anyone else. "We're not just talking about the Cabinet. We're talking about the higher echelons of society." The elite, he argues know that there are gay people in powerful positions. "But our readers don't, even *Independent* readers don't. Our argument is that we should get rid of all this prejudice and people should feel free to be gay and the whole thing would go away."

"The fact is people do get hired and promoted in the higher echelons of British society because of their friends, because they're part of this small world, and the gay world is a part of that." Ho hum, this is less than convincing. But Yelland will not expand on this. "I can't defend my position on the gay mafia without outing people."

Although Yelland doesn't believe in outing homosexuals are sensible to out themselves - including newspaper editors. "The first thing is if I was gay I hope I would have the courage to say so, because if a national newspaper editor were gay that would probably help move that debate forward. Some people in prominent positions are doing a disservice to their community by staying in the closet."

Understandably Yelland doesn't want the interview dominated by the gay issue. Plenty else has been happening. For one thing the paper has just sacked Geoffrey Boycott.

Continued on page 8



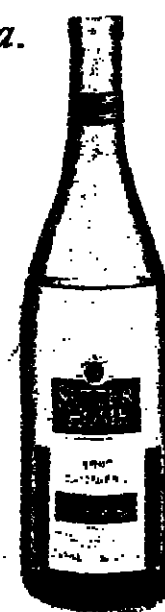
CALIFORNIA
CHARDONNAY

Perfect with sesame
scallops on angel
hair pasta.



CALIFORNIA
CHARDONNAY

Perfect without sesame
scallops on angel
hair pasta.



INSIDE

Letters	2	Science	9	Music	13-16
Leaders and comment	3-5	Design	10	Listings	17-18
Obituaries	6-7	Architecture	11	Radio/satellite TV	19
Features	8	Arts	12	Today's TV	20

SUTTER HOME CALIFORNIA WINES.
They don't need food to make sense.

Lessons of war

Sir: As one who lost three great-uncles, who were all brothers, to the First World War, I was struck by the irony of today's (12 November) front-page of *The Independent*.

Alopp Peter Macdiarmid's beautifully shot photograph of the Queen marking Armistice Day in Belgium, we read David Osborne's report that the United States and Britain are set to lead a punitive military strike against Iraq.

We will remember them?
Plainly not.
GEOFF BAKER
All Cannings, Wiltshire

Sir: In the war of words over the First World War the underlying moral issue, the problem of international terrorism, is easy to overlook.

Germany's original claim was that "no one had the right to stay the arm of Austria" in punishing the Serbian terrorism at Sarajevo. On this view, the right of victims to punish terrorists overrode the rights of national sovereignty. On the view of the British, who went to war in defence of Belgian sovereignty, these German claims destroyed the whole idea of sovereignty and of fidelity to treaties: not even for the punishment of terrorism should something so important be destroyed.

People on both sides believed that by defending their country they defended a principle of the highest moral importance. For this we should honour them all, British and German alike. They died in defence of conflicting moral principles which cannot both be right but which are both persuasive. The decision between the two principles was and is extremely difficult. People at once began to flinch from discussing it, lest each should see that the other side had a point. The discussion was displaced to general condemnation of British commercialism or German militarism.

But in recent years the original question has become lively again. President Reagan's address to terrorists - "You can run but you can't hide" - gave the German moral position of 1914 a new lease of life.

MARTIN HUGHES
Department of Philosophy
University of Durham

Sir: Niall Ferguson says we should question the assumption that the fallen in the First World War died for a good reason ("Do today's public rituals hinder our understanding of war?", 11 September). What does he mean? That there was no good reason for the war, or that they had no reason for soldiering.

My experience as an infantry platoon commander in the Second World War was that men don't think like that in battle. Some are frightened of being shot for cowardice; some don't want to let their mates down; some are tired of being harassed by the machine-gun post they are attacking; some are good professional soldiers; some are sadists; some run away.

KEN CLARK
Bedford

Sir: It is not difficult to understand why there were so many recruits in 1914. Young men have always been willing to go to war because they are looking for adventure and think they are immortal. Facts known and understood by wicked and cynical leaders in every generation when looking for people to fight their battles for them. Perhaps the first generation to say "no" in significant numbers was the Sixties generation of American young men who burnt their draft cards.

The Rev NEIL DAWSON
London SW1

Sir: The execution of 306 soldiers for fabricated charges in the First World War is one of the greatest unresolved injustices this century. The injustice is exceeded only by successive governments' refusal to grant posthumous pardons.

Most of those executed were volunteers, vulnerable teenagers

shot for alleged cowardice and desertion. In fact most were suffering shell shock, which we now recognise as post-traumatic stress disorder. The motive for the executions was to instil fear.

A moment's thought reveals the real reason why no pardon is forthcoming: the likelihood of considerable compensation claims for unlawful killing and, more importantly, posthumous indictment of senior military figures for war crimes.

Nothing can be achieved by perpetuating the injustice; in this week of remembrance, grant pardons so healing and forgiveness can begin.

TIM FIELD
Hartwell, Oxfordshire

Sir: Roy Hattersley's piece about the poets of the First World War smacks too much of trendy revisionism ("There was no poetry for Uncle Herbert", 11 November).

Consider the tale of Hattersley's Uncle Herbert: a decent man, taken from civilised surroundings, trained to be a killer; then sent to a hell on earth. This happened to millions of others throughout Europe. Such a tragedy merits its own canon of verse.

Why attack the writing of these poems? They represent an attempt (in an age when there was no "counselling") to derive some meaning from the wasteful obscenity of the war. It was an attempt to try and claw something back for humanity.

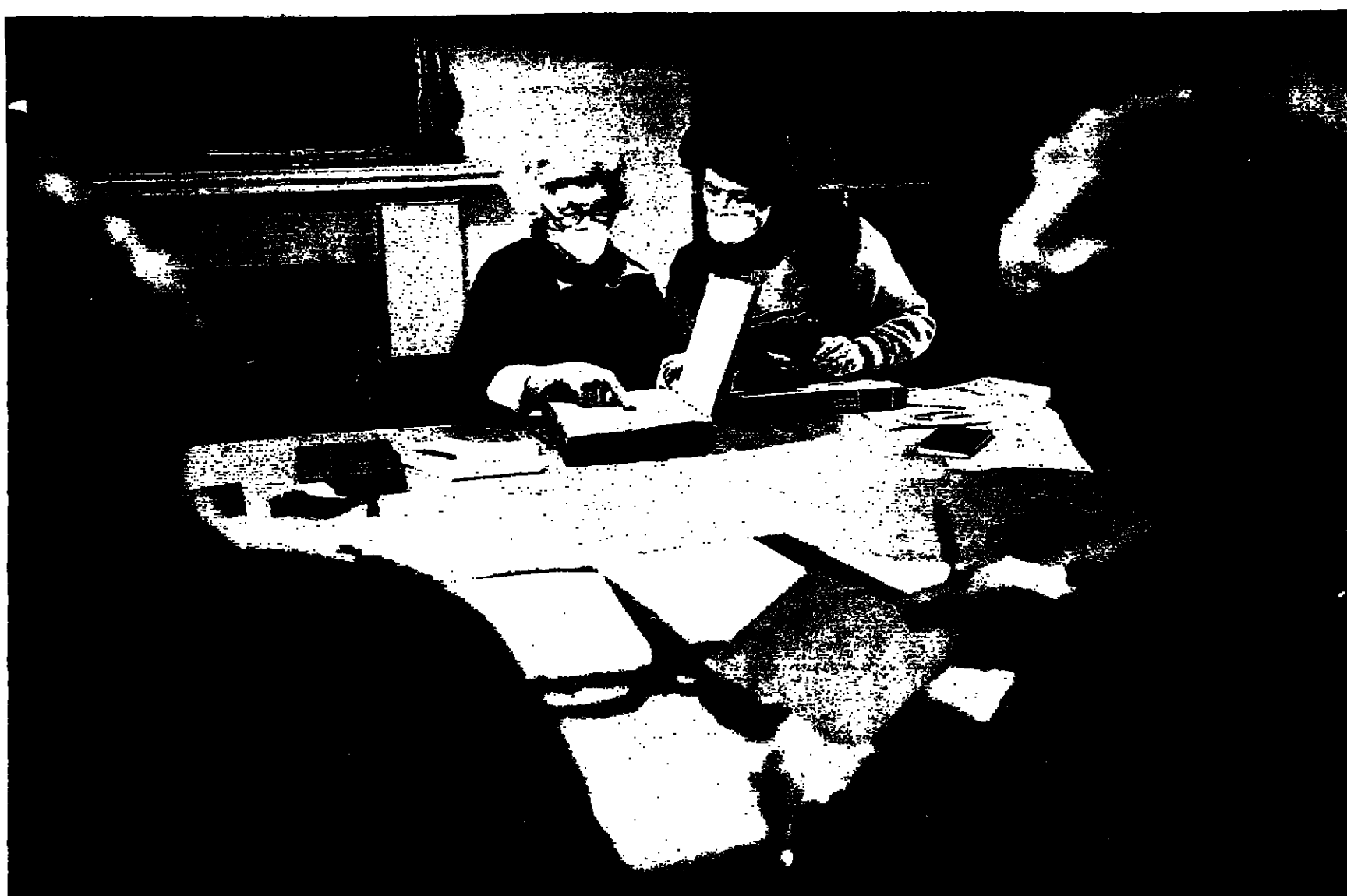
If all those men had been killed for nothing more than a tract of land, then at least poetry could transform them from ordinary Uncle Herberts to the tragic heroes they were. Can Roy Hattersley not accord them due respect for having been there?

ALUN WILLIAMS
Llanfairpwllgwyngyll, Anglesey

Sir: Poetry in general, and Wilfred Owen in particular, does not seek to ennoble or give grace to war, as Roy Hattersley says. One need only turn to "Dulce et Decorum Est" by Owen. It is about a gas

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity



Hibernating Houses No 5: Book restorers at Blickling Hall, in Norfolk, wear masks when mould has attacked the volumes

Brian Harris

Eco-criminals

Sir: Security arrangements are of course a matter for the police, but if a new unit targeting "green" protesters is to be formed, there is good reason (report, 7 November).

Despite Ken Livingstone's glib tone (letter, 11 November), hunt saboteurs frequently break the criminal law, with seven convictions in the last four weeks alone. More seriously, the three most extreme animal rights activists convicted this decade - jailed for a total of 39 years for crimes such as possessing explosives, attempted arson and criminal damage - began their involvement in the "animal rights" campaign as hunt saboteurs.

So while hunt sabotage itself may not merit the attention of MI5 or Special Branch, some of its practitioners do.

PAUL LATHAM
Countryside Alliance
London SE11

To Hull and back

Sir: Your story on Hull ("Spin doctors go to Hull and back to give city a brand new image", 10 November) really was a gem. Gary Finn tells us that "councillors, business leaders and a team of image consultants arrived in the Big Apple... hoping to learn a few lessons on how to dispel widely held myths of poverty, depression and crime."

Sir: I wonder what part of Hull the image consultants were looking at when they described it as a "miserable place". I've lived in some miserable places, and Hull is not one of them.

Perhaps instead of going to New York, these consultants should have read a recent edition of *The New York Times*, in which L J Davis raved about Hull, describing it as "a very matry kind of town" and "one of the friendliest of

Myths eh?

Hull is ranked as the 26th most deprived local authority area in England. The Bredline Britain Index estimates that 29 per cent of households in Hull live in poverty (compared with 19 per cent nationally). Residents of Hull have amongst the lowest wage rates in the country (364th out of 366 local authority areas). Hull has twice the national average of incidents of burglary (308 recorded instances per 10,000 population compared to 136 nationally). Hull City Council has a list of children in care which is three times the national average.

But let Hull residents not despair: Help is at hand. The Hull City Vision quango has gone to see New York and the brand consultant Wolf Olins has formulated a "two-decade image enhancement programme". Images can only get better.

PATRICIA KAYS
Hull

Sir: I wonder what part of Hull the image consultants were looking at when they described it as a "miserable place". I've lived in some miserable places, and Hull is not one of them.

Perhaps instead of going to New York, these consultants should have read a recent edition of *The New York Times*, in which L J Davis raved about Hull, describing it as "a very matry kind of town" and "one of the friendliest of

English cities". He was ecstatic about the beer in Hull - "the finest glass of beer I have ever tasted in my life" - and appreciated the authenticity and culture of the city.

Hull is a super place to live. Yes, it has its black spots, but tell me a city that doesn't. If this is misery, I'll continue to enjoy it.

AVRIL TAYLOR
Hull

Parent power

Sir: Judith Judd claims that in independent schools salaries are higher and facilities better ("Science graduates say no to teaching", 9 November).

This may be true of Eton and Harrow but it is certainly not the case in the many small independent schools across the country. I have taught in both the state and independent sector and in the latter, salaries were lower and facilities Dickensian compared with the local comprehensives. And yet the small independents achieved excellent results.

The key factor is not the facilities, nor the teachers. Nor is it the pupils - in small independents entry is usually determined by ability to pay and, as someone once remarked, "There are plenty of dummies in Volvo-land."

The key factor is the parents. They look for a disciplined environment where their children will be safe and happy; they monitor their children's progress day-to-day; they demand that homework be set and marked; they complain about poor teachers and object to their child sharing a class with disruptive pupils. If they are not satisfied, they can simply walk away, taking their fees with them - which keeps the headmaster on his toes.

Education is a cumulative, water-on-a-stone business. In the independent sector, no time is wasted and, over 11 years of compulsory schooling, this is what makes the difference.

ANN CHALMERS
Cardiff

Debt-stricken

Sir: Diane Coyle ("Ignore the hysteria over debt", 11 November) should talk to the Citizens Advice Bureau about handling debt. Recipients of Income Support qualify after a period for the payment of interest on their mortgages, non-priority creditors are made to wait, and even banks agree to forego compounded interest. The stricken Central American countries must be at least as well treated.

But maybe their problem is that they do not owe enough. The worried creditors of Korea and Indonesia made sure the world's bankers responded fast. The cost of debt relief for the heavily indebted poorest countries is a fraction of what was on immediate offer to the poorly Asian Tigers.

CHRISTOPHER HALL
Co-ordinator
Christian Concern for One World
Deddington, Oxfordshire

Sir: After emergency relief to Central America after the devastation of Hurricane Mitch, plans must be made for long-term aid that may help to avert a similar catastrophe. Although the reasons for the extent of the damage are complex, there may be an association with extensive deforestation. Proposals for a moratorium on international debt repayments should be contingent upon forest protection.

In line with the World Bank's heavily indebted poor countries initiative, debt could be written down or written off in exchange for agreements for long-term reforestation, which would create world nature parks in perpetuity.

Dr MICHAEL MCCLURE
London SW11

Sir: While the relief of the debt burden on the flood-devastated countries would clearly be beneficial, it could be even more so.

Sadly the human rights record of the Central American region is amongst the worst. It would help rebuild the societies of these countries as well as their economy if the relief of debt was made conditional upon the introduction of effective human rights legislation and institutions.

IVOR ROWLANDS
Frodsham, Cheshire

Angolan impasse

Sir: Your article on the death of several workers at a diamond mine in North-east Angola (report, 11 November) fails to put the deteriorating situation in the context of the rebel movement Unita's continued refusal to comply with an internationally-backed peace agreement.

In 1992 the MPLA, which has been in power for over two decades, won the first multi-party elections - which were deemed free and fair by the United Nations. It was Unita that refused to accept these results and returned to war. The 1994 peace deal was designed to bring Unita into government in return for the movement's disarmament and demilitarisation. Four Unita members sit in the Cabinet. Seventy Unita members sit in the country's parliament. Yet its leader, Jonas Savimbi, continues to pursue his preferred military option.

As the UN Security Council has stated, "the primary cause of the crisis in Angola and of the current impasse in the peace process is the failure by the leadership of Unita to comply with its obligations".

JOHN HUGHES
Angola Peace Monitor
London N1

Shirt-tail protest

Sir: Whatever happened to shirt tails, asks Mr James of Swansea (letter, 10 November). He really noticed? They are all hanging outside the trousers of Welsh schoolboys, in sensible purple (I assume) against the drab and dreary school uniforms they are inexplicably obliged to wear.

JAN MORRIS
Llanystumdwy, Gwynedd

Warning: today's column contains utterly tasteless items

YESTERDAY I put forward the theory that a humorous writer would be ill-advised to try to squeeze humour out of an already humorous news item. He would be better advised simply to reprint the item and not try to improve on it.

As evidence of this, I now bring you the whole of an item about the great Evel Knievel, the man who soared across space on motor bicycles. This is an item which I found on the back page of the *International Herald Tribune* on Friday last week.

"In the world of Evel Knievel, this motorcycle mishap was nothing much. The 60-year-old daredevil suffered a minor scrape in Clearwater, Florida, when his parked bike toppled over, pinning him beneath it. He was sitting on it with the kickstand down. Neighbours

heard him yell for help, freed him and summoned paramedics."

That's it. Evel Knievel fell off his bike and couldn't get up without medical help. That's all you need. How can you improve on it?

Nor does one need to say anything about the postman in my home town, Wrexham, who was trapped in the post box. Unlike the Knievel story, this was widely reported, but in case you were on Clapham Common at the time and missed it, a Welsh postman got trapped inside a very large postbox when the door blew shut. The first anyone knew about it was when an old age pensioner went to post a letter and a hand came out of the slot to take it.

I have to say that I find that story a bit smelly. But why spoil a good story? After all, I have never doubt-

ed the story about J B Morton, the man who was Beachcomber, "finding" a little boy in a post box.

You know the story? Some time in the 1930s Morton is supposed to have started talking into the slot of a large post box, as if a small boy was trapped in there.

"How did you get in? What's your name? How old are you? Have you hurt yourself?" And so on.

A crowd gathered. "What's wrong?" "Boy stuck in letter box."

"Good Lord, how did he get in?" "Just finding out..."

And while this crowd was forming, Morton slipped away, leaving them all to organise the release of a now silent, probably unconscious little boy.

Great story. True story? Hmm... Sounds dodgy to me. Yet stories



MILES KINGSTON
The most joyful recent story about McDonald's catering outlets came from Hong Kong...

which are really true also sound dodgy. Like the one about Torquay United last Saturday. It was re-

ported in the *Telegraph*, and no doubt elsewhere, that the players in the Torquay United Football League team had been told not to practise shooting at goal when they came out to warm up before a match. Reason? Too many of their shots were missing the goal and flying into the crowd, and insurance was insufficient to cover a bad injury to a spectator. If Evelyn Waugh had put that into a novel, you wouldn't believe him...

But my favourite recent news item concerns McDonald's hamburgers. I love collecting items which show McDonald's in a bad light, because I think they serve very boring mass-produced fodder and because they take themselves and their hideous red and yellow so-called restaurants so very seriously. I have here a cutting from this

paper from last summer headed "McDonald's World Cup win has French seething", detailing the fury of French restaurateurs over the choice of McDonald's as "the official restaurant of the World Cup", which would be like nominating Miller Lite as the official beer of the World Cup in England.

It was the big money offer of the burger bar which made the difference, it seemed. "We knew money had no smell," said the furious chefs. "Now we know it has no taste either."

The most recent joyful story about McDonald's catering outlets (better name than "restaurant", surely) came from Hong Kong, where, we are told, the populace had fallen in love with the Snoopy figures being given away with Big Macs.

The citizens were queuing up to buy burgers to get their Snoopy figures, going outside and throwing their hamburgers in the litter bins untouched before going home to enjoy their Snoopies. Bins were overflowing with uneaten hamburgers outside every Big Mac dispensary, it seems...

Actually that is one item you might improve on. You could visualise the painful meeting at which the man responsible for the Snoopy idea which had so powerfully backfired tried to defend himself to the bigwigs at McDonald's...

A reader writes: I would stop there if I were you. McDonald's lawyers are very quick on the draw.

Miles Kingston writes: Yes. Perhaps you're right.

هنا من الامم

THE INDEPENDENT

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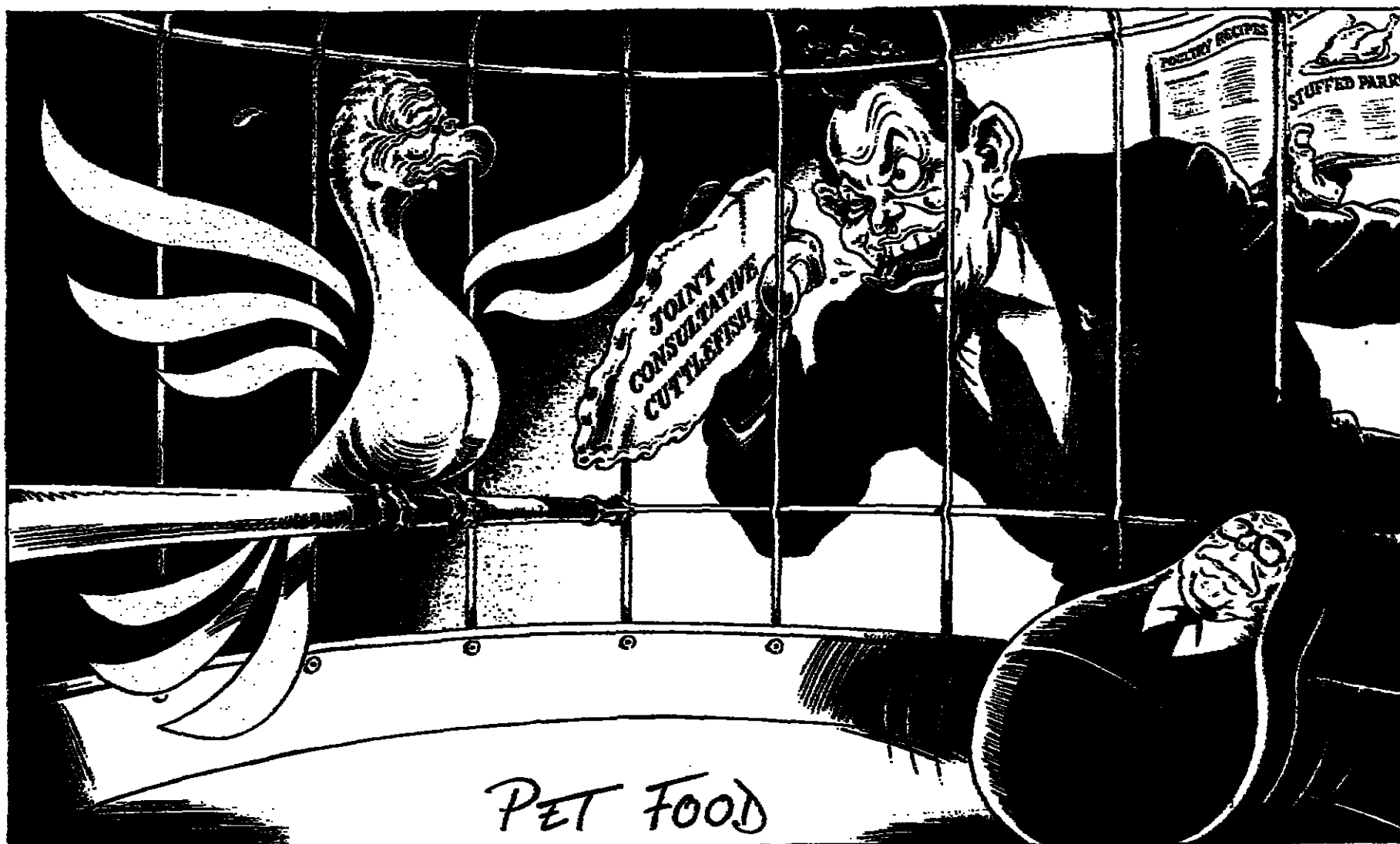
Send the bombers to Iraq, but lift sanctions as well

THE TRAGEDY of modern Iraq has reached another moment of false catharsis. Like all tragedies its dominant theme is that of two sides who fail to understand one another. Saddam Hussein, by no means a simple or stupid villain, has again miscalculated the West's reaction to his posturing. Meanwhile, the West has again misunderstood the reaction of the Arab peoples to its shows of force against him. If the missiles begin to rain down on Iraq – and we are now in the transition from “if” to “when” – Iraqi nationalism will be strengthened, however misguided it is. Anti-Western sentiment in the wider Arab world will provide more raw material in the form of ideology and martyrs for the extremists and terrorists.

It is possible that Iraq's military leaders, realising that an attack really is imminent, will try to topple Saddam. Possible, but unlikely. Unlikely still that they would succeed. Several attempts have been made in recent years, and none have come close, as far as we know. Unlikely, too, is the idea that a “surgical strike” from the air could weaken Saddam's capacity to make weapons of mass destruction. The very reason we have reached this present crisis is because the UN inspectors do not know where the weapon-making installations are – or were before they were moved. Furthermore, air strikes are likely to kill civilians, and Saddam is not above trying to ensure that they do.

Yet what is the alternative? The rule of international law may be a concept that is infused with Western cultural assumptions, but it is not an anti-Arab conspiracy. It is a truth of universal application that a ruthless dictator with a proven desire to make and use chemical, biological and nuclear weapons, is a danger to his own people, his neighbours, and the world. It is the moral duty of the United Nations and all its members to try to contain that danger. It is Britain's moral responsibility, too, despite the Foreign Secretary's dispiriting attempt this week to claim that he never used the phrase “ethical foreign policy”. The fact that many of the consequences of military action are likely to be negative, or at best neutral, is not, in the end, an argument against it. UN resolutions have to be backed up, ultimately, by the threat of force, which in turn must prove itself to be real.

However reluctantly, then, the forces of the United States should strike Iraqi military targets if Saddam does not agree in the next few days to abide by his agreement with Kofi Annan, the UN secretary-general. The governments of Europe should support this action, and it is notable that France has not, this time round, voiced its usual objections. The Americans have prepared the ground for this confrontation more carefully than in February, with what *Newsweek* called President Clinton's “rope-a-dope diplomacy”, making absolutely sure that



Saddam put himself in the wrong, and also ensuring a lead role for the UN with at least tacit acquiescence from other Arab governments.

But missiles and bombs are unlikely to provide any lasting purging of international frustrations with our inability to remove Saddam. In the long run, he is more likely to be undermined if the root causes of Iraqi and Arab grievance against the West are tackled, which means that the sanctions on Iraq should go.

It may seem quite bizarre to propose the lifting of sanctions at the same time as advocating the use of military force, but that strategy offers the best hope in the long term of weakening Saddam's hold on power. Sanctions have not worked. Their effect has been to provide the Iraqi leader with spurious propaganda – he is allowed to sell oil for food and medicine and yet chooses not to do so – and to keep his people poor and dependent on the state.

Give the Iraqi people the carrot of trade and Saddam the stick of air strikes.

A small, green step for the good of everybody

THIS WEEK the environment ministers' caravan moved on from Rio, via New York and Kyoto, to Buenos Aires. The great Save the World from Global Warming tour has been to more summits than Chris Bonington. Progress is slow, but that is the way of diplomacy and this is a problem that can be tackled only by concerted action by all countries.

People will not use less energy if they are simply asked politely to do so. Behaviour will change if the price of energy changes. That requires international agreement to impose higher taxes on fossil fuels. The crucial breakthrough was at Kyoto, when the US agreed to legally binding targets. Green purists have attacked the idea that the US should be allowed to buy the right to emit carbon dioxide from Russia, but this establishes a vital second principle: that saving the environment should be accompanied by transfers from rich to poor nations.

All power to John Prescott's elbow as he tries to put these principles into practice in Argentina. Yesterday's announcement that the US would sign the Kyoto agreement was largely symbolic as it has yet to get through the gas-guzzling Senate. But it was another small step along the mountain range of green summits.

Absolutely critical

THE TROUBLE with critics is that they are so, well, critical. Never satisfied. And they have no respect for actors. Are Helen Mirren and Alan Rickman not human? If we prick them, do they not bleed? Actor Robert Lindsay says no one will want to act if they get such mauelings. So lay off. This observation has, of course, nothing to do with one critic's comparison of Mr Lindsay's Richard III to “Ken Dodd playing the Palladium”. Nothing at all.

First steps on a long journey to an unknown destination

DON'T HOLD your breath. The joint statement by Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown on their determination to reshape the political map and challenge the “destructive tribalism that can afflict British politics” is a unique and, indeed, remarkable document. It may even prove to be an historical one. But the boldness of the two leaders continues to be in the ends they seek. We are still in the opening phase of a very long game. For this is a project in which both leaders are taking immense risks and are doing so without much support from some of their closest colleagues. Indeed there have been times over the past 48 hours when Mr Ashdown feared he could lose the leadership over this latest initiative. Some of the allies he trusts most advised him against the move. Much of his party, instead of rubbing its hands in glee at the prospect of more power, is deeply worried. Some of them are walking around Westminster with heads held low as if they have just had their seats taken away from them.

At a meeting of his senior MPs yesterday, it was agreed that any extension of the Lib/Lab Cabinet committee's remit must be “tightly controlled”. The mood was hardly celebratory. As one of the Ashdown entourage observed, “It's been a week of hard hats and flak jackets.” An even bumper ride is anticipated by the Ashdown camp when the party's Federal Executive meets on Monday.

Blair, too, is moving alone. Not even his ultra-loyal Press Secretary, Alastair Campbell, is an enthusiast about his leader's flirtations with the Liberal

Democrats. The negative views of his most senior cabinet ministers are well known. I have also spoken to several New Labour MPs from the 1997 intake and detected no great enthusiasm amongst some of them. “The Liberal Democrats seem irrelevant” was the closest one came to endorsing the strategy. Imagine the uproar if Ashdown and one or two Lib Dems had been appointed to the Cabinet, as many speculated would have happened by now.

Such a development always struck me as a fantasy at such an early stage. Now we know just how big and premature a fantasy it has been. Given the reaction to widening the remit of a cabinet committee there would have been a mutiny in the ranks of the Liberal Democrats if Mr Ashdown had suddenly become Secretary of State for, say, Defence.

What we are witnessing is a very long-term project of uncertain outcome. Parties are fragile beasts and cannot be remade overnight. Relations between parties are equally sensitive. Consider how long it has taken to reach the current situation. When Blair became Labour leader in July 1994 there was an eruption of articles predicting a dramatic realignment on the centre left. They were justified in the sense that privately and, indeed, publicly, Blair was quite open about his objectives.

In a candid Fabian lecture in 1995, he spoke of the need to repair the division on the centre left. The view is echoed in this week's joint declaration which states as its aim “the ascendancy of progressive politics in

Britain”. Here we go again. The language is of aims and objectives. They have remained constant and dramatic. But let us look at what has actually happened in the four and a half years since Blair became leader. Liberal Democrat MPs continue to sit on the opposition benches, deeply ambivalent about their leader's strategy. The key pledge of Blair's, to hold a referendum in the first term, will probably not be met. Blair himself, still to reveal whether or not he supports electoral reform. Most of his cabinet is opposed. That is not to say that two leaders have not made bold, significant strides. They both have.

With underestimated subtlety Ashdown moved his tribal party (his activists are more tribal than Blair's) away from their perverse attachment to “equidistance” between Labour and the Conservatives. Without needing the support of the Lib Dems in the Commons, Mr Blair has set up the cabinet committee and backed PM for next summer's Euro elections. Much progress there has been, but it is of a slow and subtle nature, the opposite of the apocalyptic language which often accompanies talk of the Blair/Ashdown relationship. So what will happen now? Over the next few weeks there will be much discontent, especially amongst the Liberal Democrats. But do Ashdown's internal opponents really want to reject a whiff of power for the luxury of impotent opposition? Anyway, a new kind of politics will unfold however loud the protests within either of the parties.

In Scotland the voting system will almost certainly deliver a hung parliament next summer in which parties will be forced to work together. A forgotten element of the Cook/Maclean proposals for the House of Lords is that a reformed second chamber should reflect the votes cast at a general election. It remains likely that parties will have to co-operate more fully in the Lords whenever the leap to wholesale reform is made.

Politics is changing, but both Mr Blair and Mr Ashdown are leaders who do not take risks unless they are fairly sure they can pull them off. They are right to try for the rewards could be great. Overnight after the 1997 election, Labour MPs should pause and reflect on what happened in the Eighties. Margaret Thatcher's dominance was the product of an informal anti-Labour alliance. For the SDP

especially under the leadership of David Owen, the worst outcome would have been the election of a Foot or Kincock government. Labour was assaulted on two fronts, leaving the ground clear for Thatcher.

As long as Labour and the Liberal Democrats are co-operating, the Conservatives face the same doomed isolation that afflicted Labour for 18 years. I write of the two parties “co-operating”. It is a vague notion but for now it will have to do. Possibly the election after next will be fought under a more proportional system. That depends on a referendum being won in the meantime. If that happens, in eight years' time, there may be a more formal coalition of the centre left. There are lots of “ifs” and “maybes” in this project.

Yesterday I was talking at Westminster with a senior Liberal Democrat who had reservations about the timing of the latest initiative. Briefly Roy Hattersley joined us and greeted the MP by observing mischievously that they should shake hands “now we're both members of the same party”. The great wordsmith will no doubt produce 10 articles on this theme over the next 24 hours, but he is leaping miles ahead. There will be no merger. For many years there will be no formal coalition. It is still possible that the bold experiment implodes before very long. More likely, Mr Blair and Mr Ashdown are reflecting the political mood as well as shaping it. But they are on a journey which has only just begun.

Neither of these leaders knows where this journey will end.



STEVE RICHARDS
Both Blair and Ashdown are leaders who don't take risks unless they are fairly sure they can pull them off

and the Conservatives. Without needing the support of the Lib Dems in the Commons, Mr Blair has set up the cabinet committee and backed PM for next summer's Euro elections. Much progress there has been, but it is of a slow and subtle nature, the opposite of the apocalyptic language which often accompanies talk of the Blair/Ashdown relationship. So what will happen now? Over the next few weeks there will be much discontent, especially amongst the Liberal Democrats. But do Ashdown's internal opponents really want to reject a whiff of power for the luxury of impotent opposition? Anyway, a new kind of politics will unfold however loud the protests within either of the parties.

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
Opinion on the threat of US military action against Saddam Hussein

THE UNITED States bombing campaign should not be symbolic, but be designed to destroy as much of Saddam Hussein's capability to make and use weapons of mass destruction as possible. This is not a matter of the United States and other countries meddling without right in Iraq's internal affairs. Iraq began this by invading Kuwait. The United Nations authorised a US-led military campaign to reverse that aggression. Having de-

feated Iraq's army, the United States chose to accept, in place of Saddam Hussein's total surrender and relinquishing of power, his pledge to disarm. His failure after all these years to honor that pledge gives the United Nations every right to reconsider its merciful ceasefire terms.

The Washington Post, US
THIS GAME of cat and mouse must end. It has gone on too long and the only victim is the

Iraqi people, strangled for seven years by sanctions. But how to stop it? The Pentagon plans successive strikes on military sites: the objective is to weaken the regime of the dictator with the aim of eventually taking it apart, while keeping civilian casualties to a minimum. For if we are really concerned for the good of Iraq and keen to put an end to this

interminable crisis, we must put an end to Hussein. It is probable, therefore, that the first strikes will be nothing more than the prelude to what will be a long offensive.

Le Figaro, France
SADDAM'S CURRENT strategy takes full advantage of Clinton's expected decision to wage limited air war with its modest compliance aim. His ultimate purpose is to be able to credibly bluff the West into letting

him dominate his part of the world. In 2002, he moves on Saudi Arabia; we threaten to invade Iraq; Saddam announces he is ready to risk national suicide by firing a nuclear missile at us. The US has no missile defense. Does a prudent President let him grab those oil fields, or will Clinton's successor be forced to gamble a US city on the hope that a homicidal maniac is only bluffing?

The New York Times, US

QUOTE OF THE DAY
“I was offered another job at the club but I didn't want to hang around as a ghost on the wall.”
Roy Evans, former Liverpool FC manager

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY
“Don't wait for the Last Judgement. It takes place every day.”
Albert Camus, French writer



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PANDORA

JEREMY PAXMAN recently hosted the video-taping of the "Broadsheets vs Tabloids" special episode of *University Challenge*, due to be broadcast over Christmas. Representing the "Broad" were Boris Johnson, Richard Ingrams, Libby Purves and Decca Aitkenhead, while the "Tab" fielded Anne Leslie, Peter Hitchens, Jane Moore and Tony Parsons. After the contest, all the hacks were sworn to secrecy about the final outcome. However, Pandora quickly learned the result. Without wishing to spoil the suspense for future viewers of this epic battle of brains, it is probable the outcome would have been happier for the chattering classes had a representative from the nation's most intelligent and informed newspaper (ie the one you are holding in your hands) been among the contestants.

THE LINK between the distinguished Garrick Club and the late rock singer Sonny Bono, former husband of Cher and later a Congressman from Palm Springs, is not immediately apparent. However, all eyes in the club have been on the Sonny Bono Copyright Extension Term Act for the past months as it has wended its way through the US Congress. The reason for this rap attention was that the Disney Corporation's offer of \$40m to the Garrick for its share of the rights to AA Milne's Winnie the Pooh was conditional on the passage of Bono's legislation. It stretches copyright protection in the US from 50 to 70 years and, with the Act, Winnie the Pooh would have been in the public domain within a few years. The joyous news is that President Clinton signed the "Bono Bill" into law on 27 October.

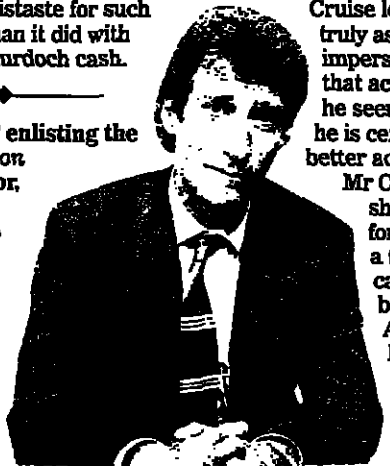
ALAS, THE *Sunday Times* Christmas party has been ditched this year. Demoralised staffers in Wapping are being told this draconian move is part of belt-tightening measures taken by Rupert Murdoch's News International in the face of a possible recession. There is a sneaking suspicion among some ST staff that cancelling the boozey Xmas party had more to do with the socially awkward editor, John Witherow's distaste for such gatherings than it did with any lack of Murdoch cash.

Hague should have hired old-school comedian Bobby Davro. At last week's Hospital Doctor of the Year Awards at the Grosvenor House, Davro paused before the major award of the evening. "And now, the moment you have been waiting for, but just to prolong your suffering, a few words from Minister of State for Health Alan Milburn MP."

IN NEXT Tuesday's first episode of BBC's *Match of the Day*, the Seventies football star, Rodney Marsh reveals why his career as an England player ended so abruptly in 1973. In the Wembley dressing-room prior to the World Cup qualifier against Wales, the legendary manager, Sir Alf Ramsey confronted Marsh. "Tonight is your last chance for England. If you don't work harder tonight, I'm going to pull you off at half-time." Marsh retorted, "Christ, at Manchester City we only get a cup of tea and an orange!" That was Rodney's last match ever in an England shirt. Pandora wonders if England's current manager, Glen "Holy Joe" Hoddle would have even got the joke.

DUE TO A US television technicians' union, late-night news bulletins on the ABC network are originating out of its London studio, rather than from New York or LA. While the other American networks have settled, ABC is living in hope of bringing the union into line. This has meant feeding its British staff at 4am and, to feed the troops, ABC has turned to a catering firm called Lox, Stock and Bagel. How appropriate that L&S&B is owned by an American expatriate named Janet Evans, who used to make speeches as a "surrogate" for President Ronald Reagan - hardly a supporter of the American labour movement.

THE HUNT for the Tom Cruise lookalike has received some rather puzzling, even disturbing, mail, but very little in the way of credible information. However, one e-mail from an "M Simon" received yesterday does make some sense. "If the mysterious Tom Cruise lookalike is truly as adept at impersonating that actor as he seems to be, he is certainly a better actor than Mr Cruise. He should step forward; a film career beckons." Are you listening, whoever you are?



INSTEAD OF enlisting the former Mail on Sunday editor, Jonathan Holborow, to help him embarrass the Government, perhaps Tory leader William

Playing away at the ballet



PAT BUTCHER

Like your average football fan, I've had my share of strip shows, blue movies and lap dancing

stretched the back of my appreciative net was... *Romeo and Juliet*. In theory, of the "high" arts - opera, classical music and poetry being the others - ballet should be the most accessible to the sports follower (although Tony Harrison's magnificent poem *V* is up there, as any Leeds supporter will tell you).

After all, ballet dancers are incredibly athletic, far more so than the average midfield dynamo, not to mention the fat boy rolling around the pitch again for Sunderland's Teesside neighbours.

The biggest problem that ballet has posed for the lad fraternity has been those tights. And, I suppose, the gay thing. But after recent Parliamentary revelations, even that, thankfully, seems to be OK with the proles nowadays. But if there's anything dedicated to riveting the average football punter to his plush seat at the Empire Theatre, it's a healthy dose of sex.

And that's what did it for me. I'd seen a couple of versions of *Romeo and Juliet* since my wife, a former dancer, started dragging me to Covent Garden a half dozen years ago.

And, like everyone else, I loved the male *corps de ballet* in *Adventures in Motion Pictures' Swan Lake* last year. But the full-blown epiphany only came with a *Romeo and Juliet*, or rather, a *Juliet* at the Apollo

in Hammersmith six months ago.

In common with the your average football fan, I've had my share of strip shows, blue movies, lap dancing, holidays in Thailand, etc. However, nothing, nothing, outside the marital bed prepared me for Leanne Benjamin's neck-tingling, tear-straining, eye-popping, throat-clenching, gut-wrenching, groin-trembling rendition of the bedroom scene with some lucky bastard in tights, whose name I've consigned to perdition.

She melted all over him on tiptoes, a swooning, incandescent wail dripping around the stage in a pheromone haze doubling as a negligee. And all before the interval! I had to take my drink outside, and count the cars crossing Hammersmith Flyover, to get a sufficient grip to venture back in for the second half - I mean, act.

It was, in a word, sublime. Like good sex, it left me truly satisfied, but intrigued, and eager for more. After the match last Saturday (Bristol City 1, Wolves 6, heh! heh!), I went

to see another ballet, which the Sunderlands (sic) might like. It was Michael Clarke and his mates at the Roundhouse in north London, bounding and bending and stretching eccentrically, backed by a bunch of musicians who sounded as if they were weaned on a diet of Led Zeppelin cross-fertilised by King Crimson. It was wonderfully primal stuff. It wasn't Leanne Benjamin, but then again, what is?

I was fortunate enough to be introduced to the delightful Ma Benjamin at a function a couple of months ago, but my wife kept me on a tight rein. Just as well. You never know with Wolves supporters.

As it happens, the Wolverhampton town motto is *Luz et Tenebris*, Out of Darkness Cometh Light, a reference to the extensive coal fields around the area. Rather like the north-east around Sunderland, where the old joke was, if you want an extra wing-half just shout down the mine shaft. Well, the joke's on us. And we don't mind. We've seen the light!

Our real role models are drunks, failures and lunatics



PHILIP HENSHER

The young much prefer an eccentric like Robbie Williams to Lady Jay's approved pantheon

CHILDREN, UNLESS they are revoltingly precocious, loathe being asked the question "What do you want to be when you grow up?" and generally understand pretty quickly that the way to move the question on is just to mutter the conventional answers of "train driver", "footballer" or like Salvador Dali, "Napoleon". A friend of mine claims that he always used to shut up polite inquiries about his future by saying "When I grow up, I want to be the first two bars of Debussy's *Suite Bergamasque*", which usually had the desired effect. But, had as the question is, being told what you ought to aim at is, I'm sure, a hundred times worse.

Your eye may have slid over the last-but-three of the Government's idiocies, as mine certainly did. But apparently, a week or two back, the Minister for Women, Lady Jay, started going round saying that what young women needed was positive role models in life, to stop them going off the rails into a hell of motherhood, powerlessness, and, no doubt, reading novels in the mornings and eating too many violet creams while doing so.

What they needed, in short, even if they hadn't realised it until that moment was a Women's Unit, stuffed to the gills with bright-eyed clones of Lady Jay and inspiring models for the young such as, er, the portly teenage idol Billie and the suddenly ubiquitous Ginger Spice. And - this is the fingerprint of Lady Jay, the unmistakable moment when she goes one step too far and lands herself in the mire of her own frightful enthusiasms - the actress Emma Thompson.

Unfortunately, nobody had troubled to ask Ms Thompson whether she wanted to have anything at all to do with anything called a Women's Unit or to be bossed about by Lady Jay, or indeed, whether she wanted to be anybody's role model.

Thompson is a national treasure without a doubt, a Margaret Ruth-

courager *les autres*. How many of the successful women of today have got where they are by looking at their mothers, doing the washing-up, and thinking, Please God, let me not end up like that?

It shouldn't be underestimated as a means of stimulating people to do their best. I remember, when I worked in the Journal Office of the House of Commons, every day looking at my boss and saying to myself, That's what's lying in store for you if you don't get your finger out.

And I don't think that's unusual. I've certainly got my own heroes, but they're an odd, ramshackle bunch, and, like everyone, I came to them on my own, and not because anyone told me they were the sort of people I ought to admire.

Henry Green, a novelist who spent the last 20 years of his life in a drunken stupor, would never be approved by Lady Jay for any kind of list. Others, like Alexander Burnes, the great Afghan administrator, or Marco Pantani the cyclist, are a bit more orthodox, but the point is that they're my heroes, and not ones which the Government has suggested to me. And they are certainly not there for behaving better than most people, but, usually, for behaving rather worse. I was always rather keen on Jarvis Cocker, but he wasn't a hero of mine until he unforgotably Spoke For England by wagging his bum at the appalling Michael Jackson.

One of the nicest features of the English has always been the fact that they much prefer heroic failures to more conventional role models. The great national role models tend to be drunks, lunatics, and, rather than the people who discovered DNA or conquered India, a man like Captain Scott, who got to the Pole second and whose expedition ended in disaster. And the young are no different. Much preferring an eccentric like Robbie Williams to the squeaky-clean blameless spectacle of Lady Jay's approved pantheon.



Robbie Williams shows the way

UPPA

Teenagers, as everyone knows, have a limitless contempt for adults. Rather than work against it by telling them the sort of people they ought to emulate and the sorts of heroes from history that they ought to revere, perhaps the government ought to go with the flow, and propose role models who can be the recipient of boundless amounts of contempt, ridicule and contumely.

Let the Government hold up Michael Winner as a fine upstanding example of what you might become if you work hard. Let them appoint Tara Palmer-Tomkinson to

the Women's Unit; let a photograph of Barbara Cartland in a baseball cap be affixed to the wall of every classroom in the country; let the biographies of the Duchess of York and the novels of Edwina Currie be set for the GCSE in English; let the young, in short, have their laughing stocks. And when they stop laughing, they will, at least, feel relieved to be themselves, and start to find their own role models.

Actually, now I come to think of it, I might have hit on the reason Lady Jay was appointed to head up the Women's Unit in the first place.

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The New Centre excludes nobody

FOR THE first time in the Federal Republic's history the electorate have with their direct votes brought about a change of government. They have authorised the Social Democrats and the Greens to lead Germany into the next millennium. This change is a manifestation of democratic normality and of a greater democratic self-awareness. We can be proud that the people have rejected xenophobic tendencies.

We shall have to modernise government and industry, restore and underpin social justice, develop the European house economically, socially and politically in such a way that the common currency will be successful, press ahead with restoring Germany's inner unity, and above all ensure that unemployment is reduced, that existing jobs are preserved and new ones created.

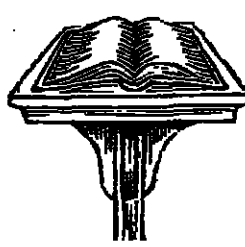
For this we need new companies, new products, new markets. We need faster innovation, better training, and tax and contribution policies which take the strain off labour. This government will face up to this problem. And it will

mobilise the country's creative energies.

Government action must be more accurately geared to our objectives and be made more economically efficient. The misuse of public funds must be stopped. We will concentrate subsidies and social benefits more than hitherto on the genuinely needy.

We said we did not want to do everything differently but to do many things better. We aim to reunite society, to overcome the country's deep social, geographic, conceptual and cultural divisions. We will make a determined effort to modernise Germany and foster internal unity. This change of government is also a change of generation in the life of our nation.

Our country is now being increasingly shaped by a generation who have had no direct experience of the Second World War. It would be dangerous to interpret this as abandoning our historical responsibility. Every generation leaves a mortgage for posterity. No one can claim to be exonerated because they were born after the Nazi terror. Many of us were involved in



PODIUM

GERHARD SCHRÖDER

From a speech setting out policy priorities by the German Chancellor to the Bundestag

the civil-rights movements of the Seventies and Eighties. This generation upholds the tradition of public spirit and individual courage. They have grown up rebelling against authoritarian structures. Now it is they, and with them the nation, who are called upon to form a new political covenant, to do away with the stagnation into which the previous government led our country. We are putting in their place

a policy designed to encourage people to assume greater responsibility for their actions. This is what we mean by the New Centre. We will pursue this course on the basis of partnership.

Our most urgent and grievous problem continues to be mass unemployment. It leads to emotional distress and the collapse of social structures. It deprives some of hope and fills others with fear. In addition, it is costing the country 170 billion marks a year. The government is fully aware that one of the main reasons for its election is that it is expected to take effective steps to reduce unemployment.

We are facing up to this challenge. The tax reform we will be starting in the next few days will be the first step. We won't spend another 16 years discussing the need for such reforms or the pros and cons for the interest groups. We will actually carry out the tax reform.

We shall immediately embark on the path of ecological tax reform. By doing so we are carrying out a long overdue reversal of policy. Nature and energy as finite and thus

scarce commodities will be made more expensive in order to make labour, of which there is plenty, cheaper. Let me repeat once again: the aim is not to tap another source of public revenue. Together with the energy industry and the environmental associations we shall be looking for new ways of supplying the country with energy. Nuclear energy is socially unacceptable. We will therefore phase it out in an orderly fashion.

To achieve a just reform of our welfare state, our guiding principle will be this: the welfare state will be judged not by the billions that are spent on it but by the quality of the service it gives to the citizen. The New Centre excludes nobody. It represents solidarity and innovation, enterprise and civic spirit, ecological responsibility and leaders who see themselves as modern managers of opportunity.

This opportunity to build a modern Europe based on a social market economy and ecological responsibility is one we will boldly accept.

We are not making promises that cannot be kept.

let

are
atics

nobody

The betrayal of feminism



YVONNE ROBERTS

If Baroness Jay is no wish to be identified with the century's transforming force, who gives a toss?

ONE RESPONSE, of course, would be to turn it into a verb. To say: to rat on the influences that have helped to make you what you are. So when Baroness Margaret Jay, the government's Women's Minister, denies that she is a feminist (sending out a clear signal to aspiring New Labour female MPs, that they should best do likewise), you could politely suggest that she has jayed on her past.

The Baroness has since clarified her position further: "In politics, feminism is seen as negative, complaining about things, it's perceived to be about separatism, putting up a brick wall between men and women. I don't think you have to be negative like that."

I guess that must have been the kind of feminism that has spawned a thousand and one active self-help groups across the UK and urged change in recruitment practices in any number of professions so that talent isn't ignored just because it happens to be female. Or perhaps it's the feminism which - inspired by the belief that democracy is about representation - campaigned for quotas for women so that over 100 females are now in the Commons? And is that the "separateness" which has fuelled women activists who argue that fatherhood should mean much more than being a wage-earner?

What has really struck home about the views expressed over the past few days, a chorus echoing Baroness Jay, is just their old-fashionedness. Bring out the psychodelic flares and step into my time machine. Feminism is shunned because it's seen as whingeing, man-hating, a training ground for haridians. All quite right too - back in the Sixties and Seventies.

In New York then, Cell 16, one offshoot of the sisterhood, argued with great subtlety that women were essentially good, and men rotten. Pretty clothes, heterosexual sex and lipstick identified you as a collaborator. Well, they didn't come more collaborative than me, aged 20, blinded by false eyelashes and desperate to be deflowered. I didn't agree with Cell 16 and the other "extremists", but their very



Baroness Jay, right, with Clare Short and Margaret Beckett: the opportunity to do something triumphant, feminist or not

Rui Xavier

radicalism made me think about the issues they raised.

No matter what the advertisements flogging domesticity and skin creams told us - "She's Engaged! She's Lovely! She uses Pond's!" - there had to be more to life than complete dependency on a man and a complexion like silk. Again, all men might not be rapists, but as research has since confirmed some of the "nicest" and most distinguished men (eg Arthur Koestler) can and do force themselves violently on women without comeback. Feminism wouldn't have been born again, if we hadn't had those "haridians" to act at the time as midwife.

Forty years ago, a manual, *What Makes Women Buy*, became a huge hit in the USA. It explained that if you wanted to sell to "the weaker sex" you had to realise that, among other issues, "Women's bone structure... overwhelmingly leads her towards more passive interests and an inward life." She also "has a strong tendency to irrational beliefs". I - and Margaret Jay - grew up in that culture, as did Susan J Douglas, author of *Where the Girls Are*.

"Whatever this category 'woman' was," she writes, "I didn't want a part of it. It meant you'd be... ridiculed as dumb yet overbearing, incompetent yet scheming and friv-

olous yet dangerous... It seemed as if we had only two choices: sink or organise a mutiny."

So mutiny we did. The irony of this week's apostasy is that the reasons to espouse feminism now are far richer and more inclusive. In short, Baroness Jay could have turned her moment of betrayal into something positively triumphant - and very New Labour.

She could have said that feminism is not only alive and well, it's biggest success has been under the present government. For the first time, the so called politics of the kitchen table is being recognised as a central part of strategy; the man-made divisions between the private family and public areas of work and the economy are being broken down. Tony Blair and co, prefer to call this "holistic government" and "joined-up policy making" and that's fine by me - but feminism is what's printed right through the centre of this particular stick of rock.

Feminism and capitalism have long since joined in unholy matrimony. Women need their own income; employers require labour. What New Labour is beginning to realise is that if it doesn't broker a fairer deal between the two - all of society pays a price. In acknowledging this, New Labour isn't pandering to women their votes, after

all, remain crucial to future victories. It is also heeding that the landscape that men inhabit is changing too.

On Monday the Women's Unit issued a bundle of research on men and women's attitudes to various issues. It's intention was to illustrate the differences. In fact, what strikes most is the growing convergence of views on issues such as health, employment and the economy. "Women's issues" are rightly now seen as human issues; the male and female experience, in many areas, is beginning to overlap in a way unknown before.

Women have moved into the male world of work and while 6 million adults are carers, 40 per cent are male. Furthermore, 150,000 lone-parent families are headed by fathers, and house-husbands are a growing minority. The quicker these numbers increase, the faster the speed of change.

So, if much of politics is already being feminised, where's the beef? If the outcomes are moving in the right direction, who cares about the label? If Baroness Jay has no wish to be identified with one of the major transforming forces of this century, if she's defensive and dismissive, who gives a toss so long as we see results? Well, results are precisely the point. While the change

in society has been monumental, the game is still that women work and men still rule. Feminism's endeavour is to maintain vigilance so the game does eventually become fairer.

Contrary to what many seem to believe in the current F-wave, feminism is also dynamic. Its terms and definitions, always vague, continue to adapt and customise. What has a higher priority in the UK - child care for instance - has no priority at all in the Third World where women and children fight hardest simply for survival. In Britain too, the prime point of recruitment has altered. Thirty years ago, from the moment you were aware of yourself as a woman you also tasted injustice - certain jobs, abortion and all mortgages were out of bounds.

In the 1990s, millions of young women say they live life on equal terms with the lads. (Unless they happen to appear in court in which case they're twice as likely to be sent to prison; or unless they come up against the company's resident dirty old man and discover that sexual harassment is seen as a bit of a joke - but these are not universal experiences, so many, many females can say, "I'm all right, Jill" and stuff the sisterhood.)

The feminist wake-up call in the Nineties comes later, when the av-

erage girl on the go becomes a mother who still has to earn. Or survive with a family on benefits. (Tougher still if your skin is black or brown.) Graffiti popular in the Seventies read: "Women will never be the equals of men." It was also common to find the following addition: "That's all right. We were hoping for something better."

Equality to me, in the Nineties, is a morose idea in a society which cries out for radical change, not least in the redistribution of income and the creation of work. Equal in what? In poverty, unemployment, self-destruction?

"The something better" for me, as a feminist, is the creation of a system which allows women and men to make the most of themselves and their children. It means setting aside prejudices about gender to which society still holds dear. It means encouraging self-worth, valuing the role of caring. It means the right to a decent income. And it means honesty about the cultural and biological differences between the sexes, so these differences are used to construct a society which enhances instead of hinders women and men. That's feminism. It might even be New Labour. We'll wait and see.

There now, would that have been so hard for Baroness Jay to say?

RIGHT OF REPLY

ANDREW SIMMS



The senior adviser to Christian Aid responds to a recent article by Diane Coyle

HYSTERICAL OR gasping for breath? Central America's disaster requires a radical re-think on solving the economic problems of poor countries. Far from the hysteria suggested by Diane Coyle, linking aid and debt relief is essential to achieve the central objective of the Government's international development policy.

People die in disasters often because they are poor and have to live in environmentally vulnerable areas, such as coastal regions. Over one billion people live like this, at the whim of storm surges and tidal waves. It is hard to build homes in Nicaragua and Honduras equipped to withstand nature while they pay \$221 million and \$564 million in foreign debt service respectively each year.

The first objective, in preventing future tragedies, is to lift people out of poverty so that, in future, so many don't have to be lifted out of mud and floodwater. To do this the British Government is backing a set of international development targets. These include halving the number of people living on less than £1 per day and the provision of universal primary education by 2015.

Neither foreign investment nor growth under their appalling economic forecasts will generate sufficient resources for the heavily indebted countries to meet the 2015 targets. Christian Aid believes that properly organised debt relief could contribute significantly. To meet health and education targets, Tanzania would need a 100 per cent cut in debt service; the same is true for Malawi, currently excluded from debt relief talks.

The World Bank and the rich creditor nations, including Britain, are all committed to the 2015 targets. The challenge is whether a piece of the new economic architecture can be built that will put a solid roof over everyone's head.

Unheard witnesses of war

"AGE SHALL not weary them / nor the years condemn" was the traditional consolation for the doomed youth of a war that ended 80 years ago this week. But what of those who lived on, and still do, into their late nineties and early centuries to tell their stories? In this skilful collection, which accompanies a BBC series that continues this Sunday, Richard van Emden and Steve Humphries have tapped our fascination with their dual survival.

First, the veterans lived through a military nightmare that left so many of their contemporaries dead, then into to an extended old age so far beyond the Biblical three score years and ten that they appear now as witnesses almost beyond time.

Tracked down outside the usual veterans' networks, many of the subjects echo 101-year-old George Louth, who



FRIDAY BOOK

VETERANS: THE LAST SURVIVORS OF THE GREAT WAR
BY RICHARD VAN EMDEN AND STEVE HUMPHRIES
LEO COOPER, £16.95

says: "I blanked out the war and only once spoke about it from 1918 to 1990." The oral history that now emerges has a fresh-corked immediacy, less prone to the reworking that attends the repeated retelling of memories. Robert Burns, born 1895, still feels the impact of the Kitchener poster on him as an 18-year-old in Glasgow. "No matter where you went it seemed to be pointing at you personally," he says.

Elsewhere spare, matter-of-fact

details work, like those in an Alan Bennett monologue, to revivify the grotesqueries of the Western Front. He recalls: "The kits we wore were pleated and the lice got into the pleats, hundreds of them... When you dug a hole, you put the kit in and covered it over with the soil."

"If you left it for a couple of hours... you'd find nearly all the lice gone. The other insects had eaten the lice."

The book's power also comes from reaching parts of First World War testimony that others have not - the memories of women as Home Front or battle-line nurses, as munitions workers, or shelled as children in Hartlepool by German battle cruisers in December 1914. Other voices conjure up an attack inside a tank: "a thick haze of petrol and gas and cordite fumes... eight men cooped up with no air... a sudden drop was sickening... we were full of bruises."

Or, during a hospital recovery: "The gas began burning its way out of my chest, forcing bits of rib through the skin... an open wound which the doctors had constantly to syringe". Then there is the surreal encounter of a Tommy POW with a German officer, who asks in the King's English: "Where are you from?" "London." "So am I. I was at college there, but they brought me home - now I'm in this lot."

Veterans also confirm a sense of humanity that had its origins in 1914-18, and was not just a product of post-war disillusion. Ninety-year-old Emma Cusson's mother was riddled with shrapnel from the Hartlepool bombardment. But when a Zeppelin was



The First World War veteran Robert Burns, then and now

BBC

downed - "and dad said to my mum, 'Come and have a look at this,' - she said, 'No. I couldn't. They're somebody's lads aren't they?'"

Andrew Downie's memories of a young German prisoner breaks out an intense heartache, still tender and raw after 80 years: "Only 16, his hip had been shot away... The fellows were giving him chocolate... There was an atmosphere of love, he wasn't the enemy then, he was a mother's son... Poor little soul, he died on the way down."

Humphries and Emden describe their interviewees as "privileged and amused to have survived for so long". It is only in the more openly demonstrative climate of recent years that many of them have lifted the curtain on their Great War emotions. This links with our need to make sense of what Eric Hobsbawm has called the short 20th century, framed at both ends by tragedies in Sarajevo.

We see in that 1914-18 experience both an intensity and innocence that we have lost, and a black-humoured knowingsness that we all now share.

As we question our personal and national identities in a postmodern culture where so much of life is in inverted commas, the veterans of this book act as Janus-faced mediums between two worlds. They do justice to the memory of comrades, but some are able also to see their own ghosts. Here is Norman Collins, still mystically close to his Lewis-gunner pal (a VC winner killed in 1917) after looking at his gravestone: "I have a lovely picture and there I am standing looking down, and Sergeant Melkie is young bones, of course, still young bones, and there I am, nearly a hundred, standing on top - very brittle bones with plenty of pain in them. Who had the better life?"

Collins and his fellow witnesses can stand at ease. They have been neither wearied nor condemned by the 80 years - rather, like Ezekiel in the Old Testament, their words have brought the plain full of dry bones to life.

GORDON MARSDEN
The reviewer, MP for Blackpool South, is a former editor of 'History Today'

FRIDAY POEM

THE THIRD WOMAN
BY NICKI JACKOWSKA

One was sleek and white and curled round his legs on a Sunday night and cupped his twisty heart like a twin to her own, and put her loving in.

Two was tall and measured him up for her days of marching round the loving-cup. She sliced and boned and slit and scored and kept his heart in a cupboard stored.

Three was black and three was red three was a witch beneath the bed. Sometimes a saint, sometimes a whore singing in his bones for evermore.

This poem comes from Nicki Jackowska's 'Lighting a Slow Fuse: New and Selected Poems', published by Enitharmon Press (£8.95) at 36 St George's Avenue, London N7 0HD

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Svetlana Beriosova

AS A Royal Ballet School student, Lynn Seymour wrote to her mother in 1954. "Beriosova is only 22 and began dancing at the Garden three years ago. She is very aristocratic-looking and I can hardly wait to see her dance." When she did, she found her breathtaking and radiant.

Many ballerinas were inspired by Svetlana Beriosova; audiences and critics enthused over her. Yet she was to remain rather elusive as a public figure. This was partly due to a natural reticence: of all the young upwardly mobile ballerinas in the company, she was probably the least extrovert and least pushily ambitious.

It is tempting to see in this sense of her being on the outside. Born in Kaunas, Lithuania, in 1932, she was to live her childhood as a foreigner in different lands. Her father, Nicholas Beriosov, was a dancer of Russian origin (later a ballet master and choreographer, universally known as "Papa Beriosov") who had trained in Prague and in 1930 became a dancer at the Lithuanian State Opera. In 1935 he joined René Blum's Ballets de Monte Carlo and moved his wife and daughter to Monte Carlo.

When in 1936 Blum's company gave a London summer season, Beriosova went to a kindergarten school in Soho, which meant that she began to learn English, besides speaking Russian at home, and French. The company toured widely (later becoming the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo) but Beriosova mostly lived with her mother in Paris.

When the Second World War started and the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo moved to the United States, Beriosova and her mother followed. Then aged seven, Beriosova had already received some ballet instruction from her father, but in New York her professional training began in earnest with Anatole Vilkas and his wife Ludmilla Schollar.

They were graduates of the Russian Imperial Ballet School, and had been in Sergei Diaghilev's Ballets Russes. Schollar was respected for her knowledge of repertoire and her musicality. Vilkas encouraged an American critic wrote, "a relaxed and eloquent sense of line" - a quality that was to emerge in Beriosova's dancing.

Beriosova's mother died in 1942.

She began to make occasional appearances in child-roles with the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo. She made her professional debut in 1947, dancing with the Ottawa Ballet in *The Nutcracker* and *Les Sylphides*. When, the same year, her father returned to Europe to enter the Cuvées Grand Ballet de Monte Carlo, she joined too, as an apprentice dancer.

She came to Britain in 1948, dancing with the short-lived Metropolitan Ballet until their closure in 1949. During that time she was recognised already for a highly individual style, although only a "baby ballerina". She created leading roles in Frank Staff's *Fanciulla delle rose* and John Taras's *Design with Strings*, and danced Odette in *Swan Lake* Act 2 and the Bluebird in *Les deux de The Sleeping Beauty*. As the Street Dancer in *Leonide Massine's Le Beau Domage* she revealed a flair for comedy that was underused in her later career.

One impressed spectator was the Royal Ballet's director, Ninette de Valois.

'Everything about her dancing is rich and generous and grand'

In her 1957 autobiography *Come Dance With Me*, de Valois writes: "One day in the foyer of Covent Garden I met a young girl with her father. I have seen her dance elsewhere and noted that such poetry of motion and feeling was rare in one so young. . . The personality is the same in private life: I hoped so much that one day she would be with us."

Beriosova joined de Valois's subsidiary company, Sadler's Wells Theatre Ballet, as a principal in 1950. She was considered a valuable acquisition. "All the same," the critic Katharine Sorley Walker believes, "she would never totally fit into such a closely integrated group. Her talent and approach were so unusual that she would always remain to a certain extent an outsider."

George Balanchine created the

leading role of *Trumpet Concerto* (1950) on her and Frederick Ashton used her fine line as the Snow Queen in his 1951 version of *Casse Noisette* (*The Nutcracker*). She was a deliciously humorous Swanilda in *Coppélia*. Even so, Sorley Walker says: "It became increasingly apparent that, although technically she had an unfailing grasp of classical grandeur and lyrical power, in interpretation she depended greatly on the amount of self-confidence she could find from the encouragement of outside approval, something that could release the exceptional emotional qualities that were very deeply buried within her. Even in the late years of her dancing career I often felt that, could she be given at the start of a ballet the ovation that greeted her at curtain fall, she would have been sufficiently assured of her welcome to open out more completely. She seemed to lack the toughness that can allow an artist to express herself to the full in spite of unhelpful circumstances and depressing setbacks."

In the summer of 1952 she danced *The Sleeping Beauty's* Lilac Fairy with the Royal Ballet (then called the Sadler's Wells Ballet) and a few months later became a permanent member, from 1955 as a principal. She danced *Coppélia*, *Swan Lake*, *The Sleeping Beauty* and *Giselle*. She created the central role in John Cranko's *The Shadow* (1953); the heroine, Princess Belle Rose, of his *Prince of the Pagodas* (1957); and the title part of his *Antigone* (1959).

She danced Ashton's *Sylvia*, *Cinderella* and *Ondine*. She created the leading part in his *Chic Rinaldo* and *Armida* (1955). She danced (in French) André Gide's poetry in Ashton's experimental *Persephone* (1961) and at a 1962 gala danced a *Raymonda pas de deux* with Donald MacLeary which Ashton made for the occasion. Reviewing the latter, Lillian Moore wrote: "She is a glorious dancer. Moving with regal poise, unhurried in the hasty measures, she bears no resemblance to any other ballerina. Everything about her dancing is rich and generous and grand."

She was fairly tall for a dancer and these qualities of majesty, serenity and expansiveness are the ones most often invoked in reviews of her dancing. They were also the qualities underlined by the variation Ashton made on her in *Birthday Offering* eight years earlier; celebrat-



Probably the least extrovert and least pushily ambitious of ballerinas: Beriosova in 1956

ing both the Royal Ballet's Silver Jubilee and the individual talents of the company's seven ballerinas.

Ashton went on to choreograph roles for her in *Jazz Calendar* and *Enigma Variations* (both 1968). Kenneth MacMillan emphasised her pure-dance beauty in *Le Baiser de la fée* (1960) and *Diversions* (1961), as did ballets by Balanchine.

When Bronislava Nijinska mounted her masterpieces, *Les Biches* and *Les Noces*, in 1964 and 1966 respectively, on the Royal Ballet, she coached Beriosova in her own role of the Hostess in *Les Biches*. In *Les Noces*, Stravinsky's harsh, staccato account of a Russian wedding, Beriosova was the Bride, a part with little dancing. Yet by her movements and her facial expressions, she be-

came the focal point of the ballet's group architecture.

Even so her career will perhaps be most associated with the classics - as Aurora, Giselle, Odette-Odile - where her expansive shapes and smooth fluency could come to the fore. Talking about tackling these roles, she said: "I think it's better if you've really lived, seen the harsher side of life, if you've been hurt, if you've cried a little, if you've laughed a lot, if you've loved a lot."

She was said to be unhappy in her private life. She portrayed the Tsarina in MacMillan's new, extended version of *Anastasia* (1971), but by then was dancing less, through injury or illness. She retired from the stage in 1975, then made something of a comeback coaching on stage in

Maina Gielgud's demonstration show *Steps, Notes and Squawks*, in 1978 and 1980. She was an outstanding teacher, a gift which the Royal Ballet failed to exploit.

Donald MacLeary, her regular stage partner, remembers her exquisite line and dazzling smile. "It was difficult to return her kindness," he says, "as she was a very strong and independent person. She loved books, painting, children and animals."

NADINE MEISNER

Svetlana Beriosova, ballerina; born Kaunas, Lithuania 24 September 1932; married 1959 Mohammed Masud Khan (died 1989; marriage dissolved 1974); died London 10 November 1998.

Gillian Steel

IT IS only recently that it has been made easier for women to combine high achievement in the administrative Civil Service with bringing up a family. Gillian Steel accomplished this, though in her case, at the cost of taking a long break - 15 years - in the middle of her career.

She always enjoyed her civil service work, far more for the satisfaction it gave her, than for its material rewards. But faced with the women's familiar dilemma of how to reconcile work with maternity she put responsibilities to her children first.

Gillian Wannan, as she then was, had joined the Board of Trade in 1964, one of a number of clever young women in the Fifties who quickly made their mark in the Civil Service. She had gone up to Girton College, Cambridge, from Surbiton Girls' High School and, after obtaining a first in Economics at Cambridge, spent a year at Radcliffe, Massachusetts, where she took a further degree in Economics.

As an Assistant Principal at the Board of Trade she served on UK delegations handling negotiations on tariff reductions under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), then in the Treasury Economic Section and subsequently as private secretary to the board's Permanent Secretary. She was promoted to Principal around the time of the UK's first attempt, with Edward Heath as chief negotiator, to join the European Economic Community. Gillian Steel worked on this and when it proved abortive was then involved in the formation of the European Free Trade Area (EFTA).

In 1962 she had married a fellow civil servant, David Steel, and on the birth of their first child, James, in 1968 Gillian determined to devote herself to full-time motherhood and resigned from the service. This she enjoyed rather more than she expected and she devoted all her enthusiasm and abilities to the task of bringing up her son.

It wasn't long, however, before she was persuaded to do some occasional work for the Civil Service Selection Board, at first from home, marking examination papers and assessing and commenting on candidates. She then became part of the interviewing panel which met for



The woman's familiar dilemma

three days about six times a year. Thus she was one of the people setting the pattern of who joined the Civil Service during the 1970s, and influenced the composition of its present-day administrators.

Her second child, Catherine, was born in 1973 and it wasn't until 1984, soon after the service had introduced a system of flexible working, largely to encourage the return of married women with family responsibilities who had experience at the Principal grade, that Gillian Steel returned part-time. While her first spell in the service had largely been spent working on overseas commercial relations, in the second half of her career her duties were concerned with domestic issues.

After working once more at the Board of Trade she moved to the Cabinet Office, where she was involved with new legislation about the powers of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (the Ombudsman).

In 1988 she returned to full-time work and was promoted to the rank of Assistant Secretary. She joined the staff of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, where she was team leader on a number of tricky inquiries, including those into newspaper distribution, David Sullivan's wish to buy and control the Bristol Evening Post, petrol distribution and the supply of motor cars.

Encouraged to work on beyond the normal retirement age of 60, she stayed at work until 1996, when she looked forward to spending more time gardening, travelling - she was a keen walker - and studying French Literature. But it wasn't long before she learnt of the onset of cancer. This she fought vigorously, going into hospital just a few days before her death.

Her son is now an economist at the Treasury, while her daughter is shortly to become a junior lecturer in Classics at Glasgow University.

NIGEL LLOYD

Gillian Diana Jean Wannan, civil servant; born Hove, East Sussex 30 September 1931; married 1962 David Steel (one son, one daughter); died London 18 October 1998.

Ellis Robinson



'Gerrup. Tha's makkin' an exhibition o' thissen' Hulton Getty

ELLIS ROBINSON was the last link with Yorkshire County Cricket Club's near-invincibles of the 1930s.

He had a strong frame, sufficient height to win bounce, and long fingers imparting sharp spin. Were he a 25-year-old off-break bowler today he would probably be first-choice spinner for England; in fact he never played in a Test match, losing his best years to the Second World War.

He was also a more than useful left-handed batsman and a brilliant close field, taking 266 first-class catches, some of them sensational. His Christian names, Ellis Pembroke, derived from his mother, a cockney housemaid who served a Cambridgeshire family called Ellis Pembroke Merry. "My mum had played cricket on Parker's Piece, where Jack Hobbs had played, and I can't remember when I didn't play the game," he told Nigel Pullan in an interview in 1994.

As he was born in Denaby, Robinson's Yorkshire qualification was never in doubt and it was from the local club that he was sent to Bramall Lane, Sheffield, for George Hirst to cast an eye upon a promising wicketkeeper batsman. "There was no room to keep wicket so, anxious to impress Mr Hirst, I bowled a few quick leg-breaks and googlies."

He must have registered with Hirst for, when invited to the winter shed at Headingley he was told to forget his leg-breaks - there would be no room in the team with Hedley Verity starting his reign - and concentrate on bowling off-breaks, as George Macaulay was coming close to the end of his career.

Robinson made his Yorkshire debut at Worcester in 1934, taking 4-31 and watching the 18-year-old Len Hutton reach 196, his first century. Not until 1937, when he took 78 wickets at an average of 22, could Robinson consider himself a first-team player; he followed with 104 wickets in 1938, then 120 before spending six years in the RAF.

He was given a Test trial in 1946 (149 wickets) and believed he should have been included in Wally Hammond's team to Australia that following winter. "I turned the ball more than most off-spinners (he spent much of his career bowling round the wicket) and I think I would have been effective in Australia." Ian Johnson, Australia's premier off-spinner, sought Robinson's advice when touring England in 1948.

As a batsman, following a strong order, Robinson's normal brief was to score quickly. He lifted Claude Lewis, a Kent left-arm spinner (and later county scorer), on to and over the roof of the football stand at Headingley, put Dick Howarth (Worcestershire) out of Park Avenue, Bradford and into Horton Park, and Johnny Clay (Glamorgan) out of the Arms Park, Cardiff.

He usually fielded at first slip with the dour Arthur Mitchell alongside, a partnership that produced a story that will live with Robinson's memory. Before a packed crowd at Headingley, he took a one-handed catch that involved a leap, a dive and ended with a double somersault. As Robinson struggled to his feet, grinning and holding the ball high, the ground rose, only for Mitchell - "grim as a piece of stone from Baidon Moor" according to Herbert Sutcliffe - to mutter from the side of his mouth: "Gerrup. Tha's makkin' an exhibition o' thissen."

Robinson spent most of his playing career under the autocratic and aggressive Brian Sellers, who won six championships in eight seasons. "I got a rollicking in my first match for putting my foot on the ball. In my

first season, my spinning finger was so worn it was bleeding but Mr Sellers said I had to keep going and bowled me into the wind all day." (In that match, bowling at Bristol, Robinson took 2-168, Hammond making 143.)

"You were only paid if you played and I was never sure of my place. As an uncapped player I got £7 or £8 a match but had to pay my own travel and hotel expenses."

By 1949, with a new wave of players emerging, including Fred Trueman and Brian Close, Robinson was released to spend three summers with Somerset, taking 102 wickets in 1951 and persisting in wearing his old, faded white rose cap. He continued to live in Conisborough, next to the Plantagenet castle, and resumed his links with the Denaby club. He was properly honoured by Yorkshire by being made an Honorary Life Member of the club in 1982. He was dressing to play golf when he died.

DEREK HODGSON

Ellis Pembroke Robinson, cricketer; born Denaby, Yorkshire 10 August 1911; died Conisborough, Yorkshire 10 November 1998.

Mary Millar

PLAYING RYACINTH Bucket's man-mad younger sister Rose in the situation comedy *Keeping Up Appearances* made Mary Millar's face familiar to millions after years of success in stage musicals, such as *The Phantom of the Opera* in the West End and *Camelot* with Richard Burton on Broadway, and supporting Stanley Baxter and Dick Emery in their television entertainment shows.

She took over the role of tart Rose from Shirley Stelfox at the start of the second series of *Keeping Up Appearances* and provided a foil to Patricia Routledge's pre-tentious, social-climbing Hyacinth. Rose lived in a council house with her married elder sister Daisy, played by Judy Cornwell, who was also an embarrassment to the woman who was obsessed with etiquette and breeding, and insisted

that her surname was pronounced "Bouquet".

The comedy, by the *Last of the Summer Wine* writer Roy Clarke, was one of the most successful of the Nineties and Millar was 55 when she took over the part, travelling to the audition on a London Tube train, wearing a mini-skirt she had bought specially.

However, playing to an audience was something that came naturally to the Sheffield-born actress whose parents, Horace and Irene Wetton, were singers. Although originally planning to become a stable hand because of her love of animals, Millar - who adopted her stage name by rearranging her mother's maiden name, Mellor - followed her parents into show business at the age of 16 by landing the role of principal girl in a *Babes in the Wood* pantomime at the Empire Theatre,

Sheffield (1952), starring Morecambe and Wise. Wise recalls her as "a quiet, pretty young girl with a thin figure". A year later, Millar made her television debut in a show called *Those Were the Days*.

After touring as Margot in *The Desert Song* (1957, 1959) and Mary in *Old Chelsea* (1958), she was chosen to understudy Julie Andrews in *Camelot* (1960) at the Majestic Theatre, New York, and, as a result, appeared as Guinevere opposite Richard Burton.

Millar made her West End debut as Cloris in *Look Up Your Daughters* (Her Majesty's Theatre, 1962) and a string of musical roles followed, including Lydia Langrish in *All in Love* (Mayfair Theatre, 1964), the title role in *Ann Veronica* (Cambridge Theatre, 1968) and Poppy Dickie in *Poppy* (Globe Theatre, 1972). The actress also won praise

when she took over as Barbara Jackson from Judi Dench in the straight play *Puck of Lilies* (Lyric Theatre, 1984).

One of the highlights of Millar's stage career was playing Madame Giry in the original West End production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical *The Phantom of the Opera*, at Her Majesty's Theatre, alongside Michael Crawford and Sarah Brightman. Millar stayed in the show for four years and was noted by one critic for her "intensely sinister figure of a ballet mistress who acts as a stone-faced messenger between the Phantom and his victims". Millar, who also played Sally in the European premiere of Stephen Sondheim's *Follies* in Manchester, later took part in the original workshop production of Lloyd Webber's *Aspects of Love* at Sydmonston.

Last year, she joined the cast of

Disney's Beauty and the Beast, as Mrs Potts the teapot, and sang the musical's love theme, but she was forced to leave last February through illness.

Although best known on television as Rose in *Keeping Up Appearances* (1991-95), Millar made many screen appearances over the years. Her acting and singing talents were showcased in Stanley Baxter and Dick Emery's entertainment shows, as well as BBC2 productions of *The Mikado*, *TiPtu* - one of the first programmes to be broadcast in colour - and *Iolanthe*. She also appeared in *Rookery Nook*.

An active Christian, the actress performed *An Evening With Mary Millar* on several National Gospel tours, appeared in television programmes such as *Songs of Praise* and *Secombe on Sunday*, and travelled to Malawi to make a docu-



Keeping up appearances

mentary about the work of the charity World Vision.

ANTHONY HAYWARD

Mary Wetton (Mary Millar), actress and singer; born Doncaster 26 July 1936; married (one daughter); died London 10 November 1998.

هنا من الامم

Gillian Steel

Paul McKee



SOPHISTICATED COMPUTER wizardry, crystal clear graphics and slick, professional presentation are now taken for granted whenever television concerns itself with the complex analysis of election voting trends and patterns. But it took the lateral thinking and mathematical mind of Paul McKee to bring them to the screen and make them a welcome and widely viewed aspect of today's television schedule.

Bob Mackenzie can lay claim to paternity of the "Swingometer", but McKee was the undisputed father of modern-day election presentation with its refinements of instantaneous analysis and the perpetually self-correcting "virtual House of Commons". The methods he pioneered are now commonplace to television analysis of voting patterns and trends all over the world.

Born and brought up in Bradford, where he went to school at St Bede's Grammar, he went on to Imperial College, London, and graduated in Mathematics. He was quick to plunge into the fast-developing computing scene with English Electric where he made rapid progress to become general manager of computing services.

His interest was diverted to television in the 1960s when he was one of a team of computer people enlisted to help ITN. Television then had a major problem dealing with the torrents of statistical election information pouring in from its increasingly powerful computers. Frantic production teams, knee-deep in print-out paper, could barely keep pace with the information, let alone make it intelligible to viewers and sustain their interest into the early hours. But from 1964 onwards, with Peter Snow in front of the camera and David Nicholas behind the scenes, McKee's stunning new graphics opened up a new world of viewer-friendly psephology.

Playing a part akin to James Bond's "Q", McKee's growing expertise and constant input made him increasingly indispensable and, in 1974, he joined ITN permanently as right-hand man to David Nicholas, where he was to anticipate many of the major industry changes waiting in the wings.

He continued to work on elections and made his greatest breakthrough in taming the feverish flow of information on election night itself, hitting upon a way to transfer the fluctuating facts and figures on to the screen in an instant. In de Bono fashion, he looked laterally and discovered a computer system used in, of all places, knitwear design that would lend itself to the problem at hand. Together with ITN engineers,

McKee was the undisputed father of modern election presentation, his graphics opening a new world of viewer-friendly psephology. He played a part akin to James Bond's 'Q'

gale. Spotted at a funeral service for an industry colleague at the end of last year, a somewhat pale and gaunt McKee recounted with relish his forthcoming projects - among them, the Irish referendum, and a couple of months in steamy Bombay analysing the Indian election. All were duly to receive his undivided and untiring attention.

GEOFF BROWNLEE

Paul McKee was more than a friend: he was an inspiration and an anchor, writes Peter Snow.

He invented the election night graphics which gave me a new career. I was an ITN journalist: he was the cyber-king - inspired by a knitting programme he saw on a computer to create a quite new way of illustrating how people vote.

We formed a lasting friendship in the winter months of 1973 - hunched over a computer, racing to produce displays that would describe the outcome of Ted Heath's snap election of February 1974. I never believed I was going to be able to sit in a studio and forecast the result of every seat in the country on a computerised map after only a handful of results. But Paul made it happen: I remember our studio guests gaping at the screen in disbelief, and Paul rubbing his hands together with delight.

He did it by persuading all of us that anything was possible if we set our minds to it. He had an infectious obsession with figures and with the detail of electoral geography. But what captivated me was his intellectual enthusiasm and the cool judgement with which he directed his team.

But to me and my family - he was godfather to our son, Daniel - he was the friend we always wished we had with us in a jam. We shared a love of the sea: we never left harbour without seeing if Paul was free to join us. He had a knack of taking the anxiety out of sailing - whatever the weather.

Most of all he was a friend whose advice was always right. He was the first person I'd ring when I had a really difficult decision to make: good judgement is a precious asset and Paul McKee had it in plenty. Life will be a lot less sure without him.

Paul Rockford McKee, television executive and psephologist; born Bradford 27 March 1939; staff, English Electric Company, 1960-74; Programme Development Executive, Independent Television News 1974-77; deputy chief executive 1977-86; deputy managing director, Yorkshire Television 1986-89; died Thirsk, North Yorkshire 9 November 1998.

Where are the Hirsts of the 1930s now?

PROMOTED BY gallery publicity, young British artists - such as Damien Hirst, Rachel Whiteread and Tracey Emin - are almost household names. Experience shows, however, that such reputations can soon fade. Francis Butterfield and Humphrey Slater, in the 1930s rising members of the British avant-garde, are now forgotten.

Their backgrounds and odd histories were very different. Born in Bradford, Yorkshire, in 1905, Butterfield left school to become a wool-stapler. Francis attended evening classes under Henry Butler at Bradford School of Art, to educate a passion for painting. By the late 1920s he had become frustrated with his day job and, despite the difficulties involved, began to paint full-time. Although he had never been to Paris or stayed in London, and his knowledge of contemporary painting was limited to black and white reproductions, he developed a distinctive abstract style.

He survived due to the peculiarly favourable artistic environment of Yorkshire then. Artists including Jacob Kramer, Philip Navinsky and Harry Allen were able to establish reputations while staying in the county. There were active bodies such as the West Riding Artists, Yorkshire Artists and local art clubs and a body of enlightened patrons, notably Sir Michael Sadler, a former Vice-Chancellor of Leeds University.

In 1934, Butterfield had a successful show at the prestigious Zwemmer Gallery, in London. He joined the Seven and Five Society, whose members included Henry Moore, Paul Nash and John Piper, took studios in London and Paris and had works accepted by several public galleries, although his type of string, hot glue and sand abstraction proved too much for Leeds Corporation Art Gallery.

By the early 1940s Butterfield had left such artistic controversy behind. He appears to have given up painting to work as a journalist. A former colleague at Norman Kark Publications, where Butterfield illustrated and wrote for the glossy magazine *Courier*, sometimes on art, remembers him as rather disillusioned. He died in obscurity in 1968.

While a student, Humphrey Slater fired a revolver through someone's ceiling, an indication of the unpredictable course his life would take. Born in 1906, Slater spent his early years in South Africa, attended the Slade School of Art in the mid-1920s, leaving mysteriously halfway through a term, then was taken up by the idiosyncratic dealer Lucy Wertheim. She chose an abstract painting for her first exhibition in 1930, "a breathtaking, daring innovation... in London in 1930!"

Wertheim befriended Slater, whose witty, provocative conversation helped to win him many friends, including

Arthur Koestler, Cyril Connolly, A.J. Ayer, George Orwell and the Carline family of painters. The Wertheim connection could have proved a valuable launching pad for a prestigious painting career. Few galleries showed young artists at this time; Mrs Wertheim's attracted top critics, titled and famous customers.

But Slater's talents shifted from abstract painting, with which he became dissatisfied. He joined the Communist Party, but was disillusioned during the Spanish Civil War. Serving with the International Brigade, he became adept at street warfare and tank destruction and was appointed chief of operations XV Brigade Staff. In 1940, *Picture Post* included Slater among a group of "Men Who Teach the Home Guard School".

Post-war, Slater for a brief time edited the arts magazine *Polemia* with a dazzling contributor's list, and developed a new career as a writer. His novel *The Conspirator* was filmed starring Elizabeth Taylor and Robert Taylor. In 1968, he died in Spain, where he had gone to write his autobiography. It was a sad end for someone termed by the painter William Coldstream "a very gifted and rare artist", and points up the fragility of early fame.

David Buckman is the author of *The Dictionary of Artists in Britain since 1945* (Art Dictionaries Ltd, £89.50).



GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

GOWING: Professor Margaret, CBE FRS FBA, Mother of Dick and James, died peacefully in hospital on 7 November, aged 77, after a long illness endured with determination. No memorial service as she requested. Funeral service on Tuesday 17 November at University Church, The High, Oxford, at 11am. No flowers, donations to the Alzheimer's Society.

SYNAGOGUE SERVICES

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 5.59pm.

United Synagogue: 0171-343 8888. Federation of Synagogues: 0171-328 2282. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-580 1862. Reform Synagogues of Great Britain: 011-348 4731. Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation: 0171-328 2273. New London Synagogue (Masorti): 0171-328 1026.

Announcements for BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, forthcoming marriages, Marriages), which must be submitted in writing, are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra.

BIRTHDAYS

Sir Ewart Bell, former senior civil servant, 74; The Most Rev Dr George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury, 63; Sir John Coles, former Head of the Diplomatic Service, 61; Miss Adrienne Corri, actress, 67; Miss Whoopi Goldberg, 43; Lord Jacobs, chairman, Tricoville Group, 67; The Rev Patricia Johns, former Headmistress, St Mary's School, Wantage, 65; Mr Kenneth Kemp, honorary life president, Smith and Nephew, 77; Maj-Gen James Doiran Lant, 81; Mr John McGuckian, chairman, Ulster Television, 59; Mr Basil Morrison, pathologist, 77; Admiral Sir William O'Brien, 82; Mr Terry Reid, rock musician, 49; Mr Anthony T. Shadforth, former chairman, Inco Europe, 67; Miss Alexandra Shulman, editor, *British Vogue*, 41; Ms Helen Southworth MP, 42; Sir Donald Thompson, former MP, 67.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: St Augustine of Hippo, 354; Edward III, King, 1312; Philip of Hesse, Landgrave of Hesse, 1504; Maurice of Nassau, Prince of Orange, military leader, 1567; General Sir John Moore, 1761; Essais Tegner, bishop, scholar and poet, 1782; Edward John Trelawny, writer and traveller, 1792; Charles Frederick Worth, couturier, 1825; James Clerk Maxwell, physicist, 1831; Edwin Thomas Booth, actor, 1833; Robert Louis Balfour Stevenson, writer and traveller, 1850; John Drew, actor,

1853; George Whitefield Chadwick, composer, 1854; Eugene Ionesco, writer and playwright, 1912.

Deaths: Pope St Nicholas the Great, 867; Malcolm III, King of the Scots, killed 1093; Prince Henry the Navigator, 1460; Lodovico Carracci, painter, 1619; Thomas Erpene (van Erpe), orientalist, 1624; Thomas May poet, 1650; George Sale, orientalist and translator of the Koran, 1736; William Etty, painter, 1849; Sir John Forbes, physician and writer, 1861; Arthur Hugh Clough, poet, 1861; Johann Ludwig Uhland, poet, 1862; Giovanni Buonaventura Genelli, painter, 1883; Gioacchino Antonio Rossini, composer, 1868; Arnaud-Michel d'Abbadie, explorer, 1893; Ernest Giles, explorer, 1897; Camille Pissarro, painter, 1903; Francis Thompson, poet, 1907; Enrico Cecchetti, dancer, 1928; Rosk Whitney Wickliffe Bradford, novelist, 1948; Nikolai Karlovich Medtner, composer, 1951; Jacques Fath, couturier, 1954; Elsa Schiaparelli, couturiere, 1973; Robert Cedric Sherriff, playwright and novelist, 1973; Chesney Allen, comedian, 1982.

On this day: Malcolm was slain and the Scots defeated by the English at Alnwick, 1093; the Jacobites were defeated at Sheriffmuir and Preston, 1715; Texas declared its independence of Mexico, 1835; the telegraphic service between London and Paris started, 1851; serious casualties occurred among socialist and Irish agitators on Bloody Sunday in Trafal-

gar Square, 1887; the fourth phase of the Battle of the Somme began, 1916; a Pacific treaty was signed between the US, the British Empire, France and Japan, 1921; the inner coffin of Tutankhamen was opened at Luxor, 1925; a cyclone and tidal waves caused the death of over 500,000 people in East Pakistan, 1970; Iceland agreed a plan to end the "Cod War" with Britain, 1973; a state of emergency was proclaimed in Britain, following an overtime ban by electricity and coal workers, 1973.

Today is the Feast Day of St Abbo of Fleury, St Arcadius, St Brice or Briticus, St Didacus or Diego of Seville, St Eugenius of Toledo, St Frances Xavier Cabrini, St Homobonus, St Maxellendis, St Nicholas I, pope and St Stanislaus Kostka.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Mari Grif-fith, "Visions (II). Visions of the South: Van Gogh in Provence", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Caroline Rimell, "Laquer: East and West (II)", 2pm. Tate Gallery: Alan Morrison, "Sargent and Modernism", 1pm. British Museum: Pamela Magrill, "Highlights from the Holy Land: introducing the ancient Levant", 11.30pm. Exeter University: Dr J. Jones, "Quantum Computation and NMR", 12pm. Centre for Regional Studies, Anglia Polytechnic University, Cambridge: Tony Kirby, "Ordnance Survey

Maps and the Historian", 6.30pm.

RECEPTIONS

HM Government: Mrs Barbara Roach MP Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Small Firms, Trade and Industry, was the host at a reception held yesterday at Lancaster House, London SW1, on the occasion of the Sixth Annual Meeting of the UK-Korea Forum for the Future.

DINNERS

Gray's Inn: Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Treasurer, and Masters of the Bench of Gray's Inn, hosted the Grand Day dinner of the Michaelmas Term yesterday evening at Gray's Inn Hall, London WC1. The guests were: Lord Browne-Wilkinson; Lord Nolan; Sir Martin Nourse; Field Marshal Sir Nigel Bagnall; Sir David Calcutt QC, Treasurer of the Middle Temple; Mr Stephen Landon, Director-General of the Security Services; Lady Britton; Miss Heather Ralston QC, Chairman of the Bar; Dr David Docherty, Deputy Director, BBC Radio 4; Mr Simon Brown, Lord Justice of Appeal; Mr David Mullan, Under-Treasurer, Gray's Inn; Mr Anthony Lamb, Estates Bureau.

High Court Journalists' Association: The 85th anniversary dinner of the High Court Journalists' Association was held yesterday evening at Middle Temple Hall, London EC4. Mr Robert Williams, chairman, welcomed the guests. Mr Justice Eady and Mr Justice Morrison, President of the Employment Appeal Tribunal, were the speakers.

Fines for health and safety breaches

FOLLOWING THE expression of disquiet in several quarters that the level of fines currently being imposed for offences contrary to the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 was too low, and in view of the increasing recognition in recent years of the seriousness of such offences, the court outlined some of the factors which should be taken into account by judges and magistrates when imposing such penalties.

FRIDAY LAW REPORT

13 NOVEMBER 1998

Regina v F Howe & Son (Engineers) Ltd
Court of Appeal, Criminal Division (Lord Justice Rose, Vice-President, Mr Justice Scott Baker and Mr Justice Hughes) 6 November 1998

The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal of F Howe & Son (Engineers) Ltd against a total fine of £48,000 imposed in respect of four offences under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and related regulations, and substituted a fine of £15,000. *Jan Disney (Cartwrights, Bristol) for the appellant; Hugh Carlisle QC and Oba Nwagbo (Health and Safety Executive) for the Crown.*

Mr Justice Scott Baker said that in assessing the gravity of the breach of duty imposed on employers by the Act, it was often helpful to look at how far short of the appropriate standard the defendant had fallen in failing to meet the test of what was reasonably practicable. It was often a matter of chance whether death or serious injury resulted from even a serious breach. Generally where death was the consequence of a criminal act it was regarded as an aggravating feature of the offence, and the penalty should reflect public disquiet at the unnecessary loss of life.

A deliberate breach of the health and safety regulations with a view to profit aggravat-

ed the offence. The standard of care imposed by the legislation was the same regardless of the size of the company or its financial strength. Smaller organisations which did not have their own in-house expertise in health and safety matters could obtain it, if necessary by seeking assistance from the Health and Safety Executive.

Other matters that might be relevant to sentence were the degree of risk and extent of the danger created by the offence; the extent of the breach or breaches; and, importantly, the defendant's resources and the effect of the fine on its business.

Particular aggravating features would include a failure to heed warnings, and deliberate financial profit from a failure to take necessary health and safety steps or a risk run specifically to save money. Particular mitigating features would include prompt admission of responsibility and a timely plea of guilty; steps to remedy deficiencies after they had been drawn to

the defendant's attention; and a good safety record.

If a defendant company wished to make any submission to the court about its ability to pay a fine it should supply copies of its accounts and any other financial information on which it intended to rely in good time before the hearing, both to the court and to the prosecution. Where such accounts or information were deliberately not supplied, the court would be entitled to conclude that the company was in a position to pay any financial penalty it was minded to impose, and where the relevant information was supplied late it might be desirable for sentence to be adjourned, if necessary at the defendant's expense.

The objective of prosecutions for health and safety offences in the workplace was to achieve a safe environment for those who worked there and for other members of the public who might be affected. A fine needed to be large enough to bring that message home not only to those who managed the company but also to its shareholders. Whilst in general a fine should not be so large as to imperil the earnings of employees or create a risk of bankruptcy, there might be cases where the offences were so serious that the defendant ought not to be in business.

With regard to costs, where a defendant was in a position to pay the whole of the prosecution costs in addition to the fine, there was no reason in principle for the court not to make an order accordingly.

KATE O'HANLON
Barrister

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke accompanied by The Queen of Edinburgh, visits the White Tower at the Tower of London, London EC3, and gives a reception at

Buckingham Palace marking the 50th birthday of The Prince of Wales, who attends with representatives from organisations which have links with him. The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron and Trustee, attends a reception at St James's Palace for

young people who have reached the Gold Standard in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. The Duke of York visits New Zealand. The Princess Royal attends a Reception on the occasion of the Annual Session of the Nato Assembly at the Palace

of Holyroodhouse; opens the new Edinburgh Dental Institute at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh; and as Patron, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, visits the School, attends the Leverhulme Lecture, and attends the Centenary Dinner, Liver-

pool Town Hall, Liverpool, Merseyside.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

raft, n.
is in fact American slang - it appears in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* - linked to our 17th-century "raft of errors and superstitions",

perhaps from the French for sweeping together, and surviving in Yorkshire dialect. There is a link with ruff-raff.
Meanwhile, over in America, Dr Joel Berger and his wife recently donned an unconvincing mouse outfit to track the animal and found "a suite of behaviours".

Miracle of the cigar and the wing mirrors

ARRANGING TO spend a day with eco warriors involves a different set of problems from your average appointment. There's no receptionist to say "Hang on a moment while I check Mr Earthworm's diary... ah yes he's free at 10.40 on Monday the ninth. When you arrive, just go through the revolving doors and he's up the third tree on the left." So I just asked the first person I saw, who said: "Yeah, like, just, whenever, I mean, it's your park. Or you could ring Animal."

I rang Animal, but his phone had been cut off, so I just went up at midday on Sunday. After all, it is my park.

But where were they all? For half an hour I squelched through the frontier settlement built on mud, crawling through dwellings made of tarpaulin draped over branches or irreparable caravans, finding nobody. Until, through the chickpea-stained plates and juggling sticks, segments of plaited hair protruding from fraying blankets indicated sleeping life.

Then the faint plinking of a guitar played the role of the distant harmonica in Westerns,

when a shadowy stranger arrives in a deserted town.

The guitarist was playing in a broken-down bus to an audience of three eco campers staring into space. It was instantly recognisable, because, nearly 20 years earlier, I'd lived in a road of squats in which everyone's hobby was staring into space. It was also normal for someone to knock on your door at 2.30am and ask if they could borrow some peanut butter. One night someone went door to door asking if they could borrow a wardrobe as somewhere to keep his pet owl. The only time a party in that street finished before two in the morning was when a satanist chopped through the mains with an axe.

The difference with the inhabitants of the eco camp in Crystal Palace Park, south London, is that they have an objective beyond their own lifestyle: deterring the developers who are planning to build a 20-screen cinema with parking for 1,000 cars on the site on to which they've moved.

If a judicial review backs Bromley Council, which approved the development

despite almost total opposition from the local population, the bulldozers will roll over the tarpaulin and Crystal Palace will have its very own Gaza strip.

The warriors are prepared for their judgement day. Holes have been dug, tree-houses erected and obstacles put in place. But on Sunday their tactic was to stare into space. The main cultural difference, I realised, between their world and that of most people is the approach to time. Someone asks a question, like "Have we got any milk?" and no one answers. The guitarists keep strumming, the others keep staring, and, as an outsider, you feel a desperate need to fill the space with a reply. "I think there's some left in the jug," you feel like saying, with no idea whether they've even got a jug, because for everyone to carry on with no answer at all is just wrong. Then, after about two minutes someone will say "No".

How do they keep up with this? Don't they forget the original question? And what happens if a second question is asked in the time before the answer to the first? Perhaps they get out of sync, so that the

MARK STEEL



ON
LOCATION

sequence could go: "Have we any got any milk?"

"Where's the Animal?"

"No."

"Where's the milk from yesterday?"

"Crashed out in the caravan." During one unsettling pause, a two-year-old ran through the bus giggling, at which point a woman, who hadn't spoken a word until then, chuckled: "She calls her toy rabbit Acab." There was a long pause, and then: "Acab - All coppers are bastards."

Storm explained the legal side of the campaign, and, when he finished, someone said: "Is it

Saturday?" But no one answered. "Right, I'm off then," said Ville. I asked him where he was going. "Finland," he said.

After a few hours you find yourself adjusting to the rhythm of all this, and then it dawns on you that, without any formal invitation, you've wandered into someone else's home and stayed there for the whole of Sunday afternoon.

But then events speeded up. Tony, an ex-smack addict, arrived. He'd been deep into the abyss when he joined the camp. Without the help of the others, who had the time and experience to wean him off his addiction, he'd never have made it, and now he seemed fit, motivated and extremely sociable. So the eco camp is actually the ideal venue for staying off drugs.

Next came Gary. And Gary was angry. So angry that, even when he said to Tony "Let me tell you, you've done brilliant", he said it in a way that made you think: "Blimey, that bloke's angry."

"This society's screwed - in the head - when you can walk past a guy in a cardboard box. Right. Huh. And on the other

side of the road there's a Rolls-Royce. And the guy inside's smoking a cigar that could feed the guy in the box."

How do you reply to a magnificent speech like that? You can nod your head and agree, but that seems as pathetic as saying: "Do you know, I've never really thought of it like that before." You could try and top it, with: "And his wing mirror could feed hundreds more!!!!" Or pick him up on the detail: "Well, it depends which brand of cigar."

Instead a woman in her fifties arrived with a bag of shopping. "Sorry I'm late, loves," she said. "Only I waited over an hour for a blooming bus. I took my daughter to Alders you see. Anyway, here you are." And she handed the shopping over.

Despite their lifestyle, they seem to have won the support of almost the whole area. Whereas the councillors, police and architects, all model respectable citizens, have hardly any support at all. How can this be? For one thing, no one's told the council that it isn't good public relations to fly helicopters over the camp one day a week or to issue warrants against pensioners who

have been quoted in the local newspapers as wishing the eco warriors luck.

But also because the camp is caught in the dual forces of modern Britain. On the one hand there is more disapproval and contempt for the rich and powerful than for many years, but the parties which would once have expressed that outrage have collapsed in confusion over the fall of Eastern Europe or surrendered to the dubious charms of smiling boy Blair. So the eco warriors earn the "at least they're having a go" sentiment, which is usually supplemented with a wishful "it's a pity more people haven't got their guts".

And they don't even have an image consultant giving them advice like: "I think it might come across better on *Newsnight* if you left out the two-minute gap before answering Paxman. And if you didn't play the guitar and stare into space while you're debating with John Prescott."

And if you didn't get up halfway through the interview and announce that you are going to Finland.

Was Jinnah a saint or sinner?

Lord Mountbatten called Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan, a vain, evil genius. A new film attempts to rehabilitate him as a tolerant secularist and as the model for a modern Muslim leader. By Paul Vallely

In the end the sex was a bit of a disappointment. We had been promised, in advance press reports, that we would see Lord Louis Mountbatten, the last Viceroy of India, revealed as a bisexual and that we would witness new details of the steamy affair between Mountbatten's wife, Edwina, and the first prime minister of India, Pandit Nehru.

Of all that, more later. In the event there was something far more interesting about *Jinnah*, the new film by the director Jamil Dehlavi and the academic Akbar Ahmed, which was such a sell-out when it was premiered earlier this month at the London Film Festival, that a second screening has been organised next week before it goes on general release.

For it asks a question which is not historical but very much of our time: who speaks for Islam? And it posits the founder of Pakistan, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, as the exemplar of a tolerant, open, democratic style of Muslim leadership - in contrast to the archetypes of the mad mullah and the military dictator which dominate our contemporary view of the religion of Mohammed.

The film is Pakistan's answer to what it saw as the travesty of their great founder hero as he was portrayed in Richard Attenborough's movie *Gandhi*. Not that *Jinnah* has been universally acclaimed in Pakistan. A bitter and vitriolic campaign has been launched against the film there with the nation's biggest English-language paper carrying a front-page condemnation because of the actor chosen to play the great national hero - Christopher Lee. (The piece was accompanied by an old Hammer horror pic of Lee as Dracula, complete with fanged teeth.) And this came on top of the row about a white actor blacking up for the role which had blown up earlier when Jeremy Irons was mooted for the part.

Such was the furore that the man who has inspired and produced the film, the Cambridge don and Islamic scholar Akbar Ahmed, was forced to chair a press conference in Karachi flanked by historians and former government ministers to defend the project from all sides. It had achieved the unenviable distinction of being attacked in India as Pakistani propaganda and in Jinnah's home country as both a Hindu and a Zionist plot.

Rewriting history is, of course, always contentious. And viewing the past merely as a lens through which to endorse our view of the present is the fallacy which the great historian Herbert Butterfield warned against in *The Whig Interpretation of History*. Yet Professor Ahmed felt he had no alternative after the portrait of his hero in Attenborough's film. In *Gandhi* Jinnah is portrayed as a glowering sulking villain - intransigent, power-hungry and impervious to the dangers of breaking up British India and the million deaths which ensued at the partition of the sub-continent.

The slander, in Akbar Ahmed's eyes, goes well beyond the cinema. Lord Mountbatten - while publicly claiming he was entirely impartial between Jinnah's Pakistan and Nehru's India - privately called the Muslim leader everything from vain and megalomaniacal to an evil genius, a



Above: Christopher Lee plays Jinnah in the film by Jamil Dehlavi and the Cambridge don Akbar Ahmed. Inset, the real Jinnah



Ahmed felt he had no alternative after the portrait of his hero in *Gandhi*, where Jinnah is a glowering villain - impervious to the dangers of breaking up British India and the deaths which ensued at partition

will be many who feel that he took the pusillanimous options in his attempt to come up with Pakistan's answer to *Braveheart*. The sex between Edwina and Nehru is hinted at in the gentlest of ways. Louis Mountbatten's sexual ambiguity - or at least his lack of jealousy at his wife's relationship with the Indian leader - remains enigmatic. And scenes which revealed Jinnah to be (in contravention of Muslim law) a whisky-drinker, albeit in moderation, were cut.

The result is a curiously dated, endearingly innocent Fifties style of film, full of unmodulated decency and heroic virtue. But there is more behind the hagiography than the mere

desire to ensure that the film is not banned as indecent in Muslim countries. For *Jinnah* stands for a way of being an Islamic leader which has fallen from the lexicon of contemporary politics.

Pakistanis, Ahmed insists, need to be reminded of the tough-minded, secularist pluralist who created their nation. More than that, Jinnah offers an example to the wider Muslim world. "Here is a man who wants to balance tradition and modernity, who is speaking as a Muslim but also as a man who says that Islam is tolerant," said Ahmed. "Jinnah is a modern Muslim leader who believes in human rights, minority rights and

women's rights and who - in a nation now tainted by corruption - was a man of total integrity, taking only one rupee a month as his pay."

Yet the Jinnah model has now almost faded from view. Many Pakistanis under the age of 30 have never even heard of him. "Their idea of an Islamic leader is a military dictator like Saddam, or the 'mad mullah' model of Afghanistan or Iran," he said. "Many people have latterly been taught to regard Jinnah as a secular figure but he spent his life fighting for a kind of Islam which showed respect for law, for the rights of women and of minorities - things which the Prophet Mohammed himself insisted upon."

In one sense this is familiar territory for Akbar Ahmed. During the Rushdie crisis he spent many hours mediating between the positions of fundamentalists in the Muslim and libertarian camps, explaining that Rushdie was guilty of needless blasphemy - for which he should atone - but unequivocally condemning the *fatwa* which condemned the author to death.

In many parts of the world today Islam, or a particular interpretation of it, has rushed into the vacuum in which angry, alienated young Mus-

lims exist. "It gives them a sense of pride, identity and strength - and the notion that they have the ability to shake the most powerful nation on earth with a few bombs," Ahmed said. In countries where the state is strong the result is military dictatorship; where the state is weak the result is mullah-led theocracy.

"The Jinnah model is much more ambiguous, yet if it is not kept before the eyes of young Muslims then they will turn to a Gaddafi or Khomeini figure," he said.

Either that or they will descend into the morass of myopia, corruption and caprice which he says characterises modern-day Pakistan. Over the past two decades the state Jinnah founded has undergone successive periods of martial law, abortive military coups and states of emergency - in which only one president has completed his term, prime ministers have been dismissed eight times, one prime minister was assassinated, one executed, and eight parliaments have been prematurely dissolved.

Jinnah would be horrified at the distortion which has grown from his ideal of a secular state. Akbar Ahmed insists. "Now, more than ever, Muslims need to be reminded that there is another way."

Continued from page 1 after his conviction for assault in France. Though Yelland won't give a figure or discuss the Boycott contract, it was a big decision which may cost the paper a cool £350,000 or so. But thousands of women readers of every age telephoned in after the paper's five pages of deeply hostile coverage of the Boycott court case and told him it was the right thing to do.

So what about the paper's close - some say incestuous - relationship with the Labour Government? Oddly, despite the difficult time it has caused Mandelson recently - it has also done what some people think of as blatant sucking up - including an odd news piece - baffling to anyone who had been at the Labour conference, saying that Mandelson's politely received speech had had "delegates rolling in the aisles". The explanation is straightforward, says Yelland. "It was Dave Wooding's piece. I love David dearly but he went way over the top. He's now left the paper, so I can say that. It was not rewritten in the office."

"It was 'bollocks' to suggest the paper had been ingratiating itself with Mandelson because of Mandelson's power to decide the News International bid for Manchester United. He had had a heated conversation with Mandelson the evening of the Parris outing - which after all was the day before Mandelson referred the bid to the MMC. "I would never reveal what the conversation was but he was not happy that we were putting it in the paper so the idea we were nice to Mandelson because of any pressure from above is not true. We have been very critical of him actually. I do think he's a very bright guy. He's someone who if he does something we approve of we would say so." Like Blair and Brown, Mandelson is a high-profile politician about whom *The Sun* writes a lot. And what about the Euro, after the Sun's leader suggesting that Blair, marvellous a Prime Minister as *The Sun* thinks he just might be the "most dangerous man in Britain". Yelland - personally, he says, a long standing opponent of EMU, clearly - and right believes - that *The Sun* has had a big effect on the Euro debate, though he is surprisingly modest about saying so. A total of 150,000 readers phoned in support after that leader - more than after the death of Princess Diana. And yes, the paper's plan is certainly to keep on opposing EMU - up to and including a referendum, if there is one. Except that Yelland allows himself just one caveat. "Unless it works."

As for the paper's overall relationship with the Government, Yelland insists, it is more frictional than it looks. For a start, whereas, when the paper supported Thatcher it never "printed a critical word", it now "shifts over all Tony Blair" some of the time. He won't say how often he speaks to Blair - or to Alastair Campbell - who he says has "gone nuts" with the paper twice this week, though on what, he won't say. As Yelland points out, we've spent most of our time talking politics. As it happens, he found today's story about Ben Needham, the missing boy who disappeared on Kos in 1991, "a lot more exciting".

521 من الامم

Why men become anoraks

Evolution may have programmed an autistic element into men's psyches which makes them prone to obsessive, train-spotterish behaviour. By Sanjida O'Connell

Powerful new techniques to investigate mental illness are providing scientists with a dramatic insight into autism, a baffling disorder where affected children cannot form normal emotional bonds with their friends and family. Using brain scanners and genetic analysis, scientists are discovering that autistic-like traits may be more common within the healthy population than previously realised and that they may even be an advantage in certain professions – such as science.

Autism affects men more than women. Eight out of nine autistics and 14 out of 15 people with "high functioning" autism – known as Asperger's syndrome – are men. A third of people with autism suffer from mental retardation, but Asperger's is characterised by normal or high IQ. In both cases, people with either Asperger's or autism have problems understanding how other people think or feel. They lack the ability to put themselves in someone else's position, what psychologists describe as "theory of mind".

Most of us explain and predict other people's behaviour by guessing their mental state – their thoughts, desires and beliefs. As Professor Daniel Dennett, a philosopher from Tufts University in Massachusetts, explains: "Watching a film with a highly original and understereotyped plot, we see the hero smile at the villain and we all swiftly and effortlessly arrive at the same theoretical diagnosis: 'Aha! we conclude (but perhaps not consciously). He wants her to think he doesn't know she intends to defraud her brother!'"

A person with autism only sees the hero smile at the villain; moreover, he or she will also find it difficult to empathise with any of the characters. This kind of intelligence is the oil that lubricates social relations. Some psychologists now believe that the ability to predict other people's behaviour on the basis of what we think they are thinking – rather than an ability to use tools or language – was the driving force behind human evolution.

According to this theory, if our brains have increased in size and complexity, fuelled by our need to work out what our nearest and dearest might be thinking of doing, specific areas of the brain should be devoted to social cognition. Professor Leslie Brothers, from the School of Medicine at the University of California at Los Angeles, suggests that three parts of the brain are crucial: the orbito-frontal cortex, the superior temporal gyrus, and the amygdala, a small walnut-sized region at the base of the brain.

Simon Baron-Cohen and Sally Wheelwright of Cambridge University, and a team of researchers from the Royal London School of Medi-



Colin Firth playing the Arsenal fanatic in the film of Nick Hornby's novel 'Fever Pitch'. Scientists think such behaviour could be linked to autism

cine and the University of London, took brain scans of both normal people and those with Asperger's syndrome, while they were solving a problem designed to test social intelligence. The subjects were given photographs of people's eyes and asked to guess what the person was thinking or feeling. Even with so little visual information most of us could score highly on this kind of task; those with Asperger's tend to get about half the questions right. The team's work seems to indicate that the frontal and temporal regions of the brain and the amygdala were used to calculate social intelligence. When the people with Asperger's answered the questions, they used

some of the same brain areas, but not the amygdala. Previous studies have indicated that the amygdala's major role lies in processing emotions. "What we have also shown is that it is involved in inference of a broader range of mental states from the face and especially the eyes," says Dr Baron-Cohen.

The scientists believe there is a genetic basis for autism; previous research suggested that if a child has autism, Asperger's and autistic-like traits will tend to run in the family. A survey of the fathers and grandfathers of people with autism also found that they were twice as likely to be engineers than the relatives of non-autistic people. The stereo-

type of scientists is still of predominately male, brilliant but impractical, cold, unemotional with limited communication skills – autistic-like traits, in other words.

Dr Baron-Cohen chose to look at engineering since this is a predominantly male occupation which requires a high level of understanding of physics, but does not rely on any kind of social intelligence. The team expanded its investigation by asking students at Cambridge University whether they had a relative who was autistic or had autistic-like traits.

The students were grouped into two categories: those who were reading humanities, literature and arts, and those who were scientists,

physicists and engineers. It was found that science students were six times more likely than humanities students to have autistic relatives.

The team delved further by giving highly intelligent eight- to 12-year-old children with Asperger's "folk physics" and "folk psychology" tests. Folk physics is the kind of science that can be understood without knowledge of physics. "They're the kind of thing that can be solved just from being alive. The prediction was that these children's knowledge of how machines work would be superior to their knowledge of how people work," Dr Baron-Cohen says. "The (folk physics) tests are not

everyone's cup of tea. Actually I had quite a lot of problems with the tests myself," he says. He had less difficulty with the questions designed to test folk psychology – our innate ability to be socially intelligent. As predicted, the children performed poorly when they had to guess other people's thoughts or emotional states, but were better than the average 16-year-old at solving mechanical problems.

So could autism be linked to science? The best-selling novelist Nick Hornby is firmly in the artistic camp, but his semi-autobiographical novels deal with male characters who cannot express their emotions and have Asperger's-like traits, such

as an obsessive attention to detail and a train-spotting mentality.

For example, Robert, the central character in Hornby's novel *High Fidelity* believes you cannot be a decent person without at least 500 records. Robert continuously makes lists of the top five singles of all time, top five Elvis Costello records, top five Monday morning hits. When he is asked to go to his girlfriend's father's funeral, he asks his mates for their best five pop songs on death. It is no coincidence, perhaps, that Hornby has an autistic son.

According to Dr Baron-Cohen it is not that autism is linked to being a scientist per se, but that the skills required for being a good physicist or engineer are the ones that we currently think of as typically male. Professor David Skuse, from the Institute of Child Health at University College London Medical School, is about to publish evidence suggesting where a gene or genes for autism might be found. He believes that these genes are carried on the X sex chromosome. Girls have two of these, one from each parent, whereas boys only have one, which they inherit from their mothers.

"The threshold hypothesis we are suggesting is that normal girls who carry their father's X chromosome also have a protective factor on that chromosome which helps to prevent them from developing autism," Professor Skuse says. "We believe it is an imprinted gene, which is switched off when inherited from one parent and switched on when inherited from the other. In this particular instance we are suggesting the gene is always switched on when it is transmitted by a father and always switched off when it is transmitted by a mother." This would explain why boys are more prone to autism than girls.

If Professor Skuse's hypothesis proves to be correct, the consequences are two-fold: first it means that autism or autistic-like traits must be far more common than most of us imagine. Second, since these genes can protect women from autism, but do not protect men, there might be some slight evolutionary advantage that is conferred if men have a mild form of autism and women do not.

Dr Baron-Cohen and Professor Skuse believe autism and Asperger's may be an extreme form of the male brain, a suite of behavioural attributes that are at one end of a spectrum of otherwise normal human responses. "A little bit of autism could be useful. For instance, if men are a bit less socially responsive, this would allow them to be more dominant." It could also help them to excel in the typically "male" professions of engineering and science, said Professor Skuse.

Sanjida O'Connell's novel, *Angel Bird*, is published this month

"THE ION engine on Deep Space 1 has shut down unexpectedly." This may sound like a line from *Star Trek*, but in fact it was the latest news from NASA on a space probe sent to rendezvous next July with an asteroid, 1992 KD. After working for just over four minutes, the futuristic solar-powered engine, which throws out a constant stream of xenon ions to accelerate its payload, turned itself off and failed to restart. The ion engine of Deep Space 1 probe is one of 12 new technologies being tested on the \$152m (191m) mission.

THE US ARMY has teamed up with the American Red Cross to develop bandages and a foam and spray which can stop severe bleeding in seconds. The treatments contain freeze-dried versions of two natural clotting agents – a protein, fibrinogen, and the enzyme thrombin

– at concentrations 50 to 100 times greater than in blood. When they touch blood they start forming the sticky lattice of fibrin molecules which becomes a scab. In animal experiments, arterial bleeding – where the blood pumps out of the body – was stopped within 15 to 60 seconds, cutting the blood loss compared with the standard procedure (applying firm pressure and a bandage to the wound) by 50 to 85 per cent. Clinical trials on humans are expected to start within a year. The foam is intended for bullet wounds and similar puncture wounds with deep-seated bleeding.

WHAT HAPPENED IN 1250? Astronomers have discovered that people should have seen the light

from a supernova which exploded closer to Earth than any other since. It would have been the brightest object in the night sky apart from the Moon, yet records fail to mention it. Either the astronomers were sloppy, or there is a new celestial phenomenon – invisible supernovae. The discovery by scientists at the Max Planck Institute in Germany was reported in the journal *Nature*. The supernova turned up when they were scanning the constellation Vela for X-rays and gamma rays, which can be byproducts of a supernova explosion. There, 650 light-years away, they found the supernova's gas cloud – still twice as hot as the Sun's core, and up to 25 light-years across.

Scientists are divided over the explanation: some suggest it was sloppy record-keeping in the Middle

Ages, others that little visible light was produced in the explosion, and yet others believe that interstellar dust might have obscured the sight.

A COMMON virus may contribute to "hardening of the arteries", otherwise known as arteriosclerosis, according to new research. Animal studies show that cytomegalovirus (CMV), which causes few symptoms apart from a mild rash or flu-like symptoms, seems to contribute later in life to hardening of the arteries, according to Archana Chatterjee of Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. "In most cases CMV is a benign disease... Most people don't even know they've been infected," she said. But depending on the size of the risk, it may be worth vaccinating people against CMV when young to avoid arteriosclerosis later, she suggested.

TECHNOQUEST

Q: Can we lose our sense of taste and smell?
Yes, and people who go to their GP reporting a loss of either sense are, after testing, found to be either completely without smell or taste sensations or they may have a reduced sensitivity to particular tastes or smells. In some disorders of the chemical senses, the system may misread and distort a smell, a taste, or a flavour. Or a person may detect a bad smell or taste from a substance that is normally nice. Smell disorders are more common than taste disorders and both are potentially serious. A person with faulty chemosenses is deprived of an early warning that most of us take for granted. Smell and taste alert us to fires, poisonous fumes, leaking gas, and spoiled food and beverages. Smell and taste losses can also lead to depression because

eating just isn't fun anymore. Some people are born with poor senses of taste or smell, but most develop them after an injury or illness. Upper respiratory infections and head injuries are frequently blamed. Loss of the sense of smell can result from polyps in the nasal cavities, sinus infections, hormonal disturbances, or dental problems. Loss of smell and taste also can be caused by exposure to chemicals such as insecticides and by some medicines. For example, many patients find that their sense of taste and smell is affected after receiving radiation therapy for cancers of the head and neck.

The extent of a particular person's problem can be determined by measuring the lowest concentration of a chemical that he or she can detect. A patient also may be asked to compare the smells

or tastes of different chemicals or to note how the intensities of smells or tastes grow when a chemical's concentration is increased. Scientists have developed a "scratch and sniff" test to evaluate smell. A person scratches pieces of paper treated to release different smells, sniffs them, and tries to identify each one from a list. In taste testing, the patient responds to different chemical concentrations: this may involve a simple "sip, spit, and rinse" test, or chemicals may be applied to areas of the tongue.

Q: Who was the first person to wear a watch?
The first known recorded wrist watch was made by two Swiss men – Jaquet-Droz and Leschot in Geneva in 1790. It was a "watch to be fixed to a bracelet". The earliest surviving example is from 1806.

Q: How long and at what height and speed does the space shuttle orbit?
The type of orbit depends on the shuttle's mission. The *Hubble* repair mission was conducted at a record shuttle altitude of about 359 miles because that was where *Hubble* was positioned. The STS 70 mission which carried the Russian cosmonaut Sergei Krikalev, reached about 220 miles. The lower the orbit, the higher the orbital speed. The speed of 160-mile high circular orbital speed would be about 17,750mph. There is not much difference between orbital speeds from 160 to 350 miles. One orbit takes about 90 minutes.

You can also visit the technoquest World Wide Web site at <http://www.sciencenet.org.uk>

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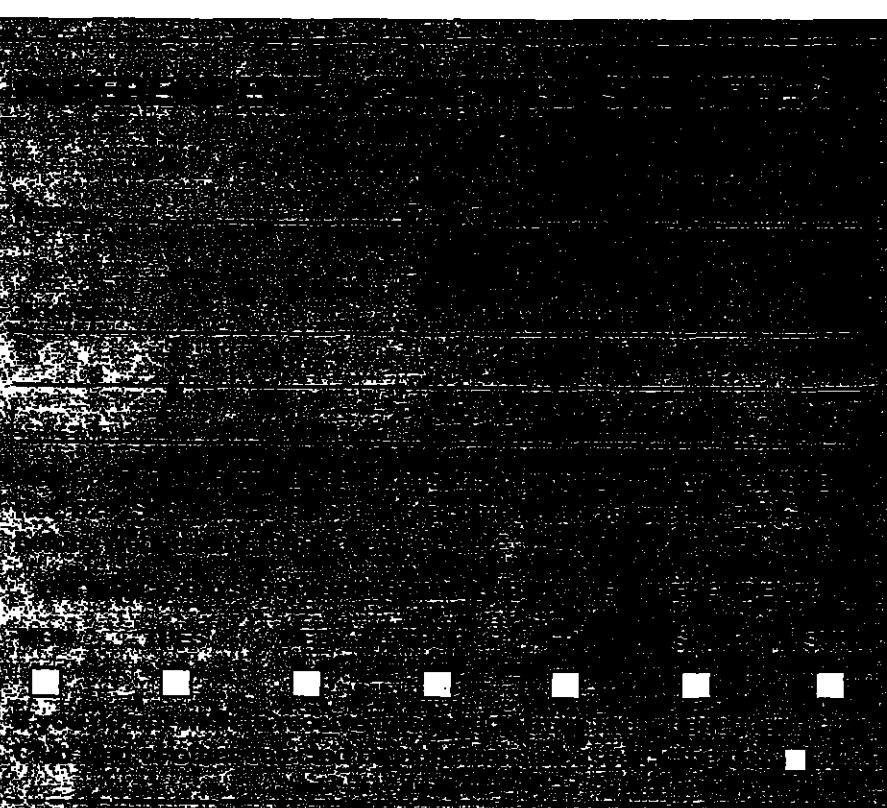
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TOKEN 7
THE INDEPENDENT
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Sharp urban potters

Potters have left their remote cottages behind and traded in the hippy aesthetic to lead professional careers in the city.
By Lesley Jackson

When Bernard Leach chose remote St Ives for his pottery back in 1930, it was because he felt he could be more creative living in the country than in the city. Most pioneer studio potters followed his example. It wasn't until the arrival of Lucie Rie from the Continent in 1966 that the association between craftsmanship and rural living was challenged. Rie came from Vienna and brought with her an urban aesthetic influenced by the Bauhaus. London was her natural home, and she had no thoughts of leaving it. With the rise of the hippy movement during the late Sixties, craftspeople once again became allied with back-to-the-earth living. If you were starting up as a potter in the early Seventies, the likelihood was that you would go and live in a cottage in a remote part of Wales with a few goats, half a mile down an unmade track.

In the entrepreneurial Eighties these assumptions were questioned. Young arts and crafts makers became aware of the need for their businesses to be economically viable, which meant being close to major centres of population. Now the trendiest place for a maker to be is at the heart of the city, preferably in an unprepossessing, post-industrial building where the rent is low, but the artistic kudos is proportionally high.

Thirty-nine-year-old Kate Malone, one of Britain's leading potters, rests on the cusp of these two movements, with one foot in the hippy camp (she and partner Graham make a pilgrimage to India almost every year), but the other firmly rooted at the nexus of the London contemporary art scene. When she was studying ceramics at Bristol in the late Seventies, one of her tutors was Wally Keeler, at that time a prime exponent of the back-to-the-earth movement. But in 1983 Kate moved to London for three years at the Royal College of Art and, although the urban experience was disorientating, she soon found it exhilarating and creatively liberating.

Dressed in her tailor-made tweed dungarees, Kate still carries vestiges of an earlier hippy aesthetic, but the apparently laid-back exterior belies a sharp business mind. There is nothing dreamy or amateurish about the way she manages her life and her career. She is respected throughout the crafts world as a consummate professional.

I first met Kate back in 1988, two years after she had graduated from the RCA, when she was working in Arts Council subsidised studio space under the railway arches beneath Hungerford Bridge. Even then she was one to watch, and she already had ambitious plans for a workshop of her own.

Kate and her partner Graham Inglefield, a craftsman-builder, had recently purchased a dilapidated house in Hackney which they were renovating. Instead of establishing a studio in the basement as many potters do, the plan was for Graham to build a large two-storey workshop on a strip of land at the back of the house, which Kate would



Kate Malone holding one of the vegetable-like pieces from her latest exhibition, 'The Allotment' Richard Olivier

then share with a group of potters, using the rent to cover the mortgage and the overheads.

By 1992 Balls Pond Studio was up and running, complete with artist-designed, wrought-iron balcony and door by Stephen Forster. From this date Kate's career flourished, too. Her pots got larger, her glazes got richer, and the studio went from strength to strength. Much to her satisfaction, she was not alone in her success: everyone who worked there benefited from the momentum

built up as a gallery - terrazzo flooring on the ground floor, and wooden floors upstairs which can be sanded and repolished. Decoration has since been added in the form of a ceramic tile mosaic on the stairs designed by Martin Moore. Kate is quick to point out how privileged she and her fellow potters are to enjoy facilities of this quality.

The first floor houses a small display area, and twice a year the entire building is converted into a gallery for a special open studio exhibition over a long

personally and professionally as well as aesthetically. She sees herself, too, as a "gardener of pots". Her latest exhibition is called "The Allotment" and, along with plump pumpkins and prickly pineapples, it contains a sumptuous array of vessels inspired by pods, seeds, nuts and berries.

Last year baby Scarlet popped out of the Malone/Inglefield greenhouse, which has prompted a few changes. Having spent the last 10 years nurturing the studio and the people in it, as well as creating her own ceramic cornucopia, Kate is anxious to secure a future for the enterprise. The latest plan is for a group of potters from Balls Pond to set up a new communal studio nearby. This would allow Kate the much-needed space for expansion. She is enthusiastic about the idea of Balls Pond Studios spawning another workshop of similar quality. The more, the better, as far as she is concerned.

'The Allotment' opens at the Midland Arts Centre, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham on 14 November and runs until 3 January 1999, followed by a national tour. Balls Pond Studio is open by appointment at 88 Cufford Meads (to the rear of 157 Balls Pond Road), London N1 4DX (tel 0171-254 4037; fax 0171-275 0401). The next studio open days are 5-6 December, 11am-7pm.

One of the original aims of the studio was to act as a seedbed for potters beginning their careers

and the critical mass.

A long narrow building with a pitched, top-lit roof and a spiral staircase at one end, Balls Pond Studio is large enough to accommodate eight potters at any one time, although by adopting a time-share system, 12 potters can enjoy the studio's facilities. There are two kilns, one extra-large for firing major commissions. Although the basic construction is no-nonsense concrete blocks, Graham was meticulous about the interior detailing, installing cantilevered workbenches, lots of built-in shelving, low-voltage spotlights throughout - so that the studio can dou-

weekend. Each individual is free to exhibit independently at any time, and as people's careers take off, it is accepted that they may move on. One of the original aims of the studio was to act as a seedbed for potters embarking on their careers, providing high-quality facilities at an affordable rent (a mere £26 per week, inclusive of heating, lighting and cleaning) and enabling individuals to tap into joint marketing initiatives.

All the potters who have passed through Balls Pond Studio have benefited from Kate's dynamism and creativity; she is renowned for her generosity in helping others, technically,

EVOLUTIONS IN DESIGN

NO 3: THE SHOWER

THE FIRST refreshing shower fell upon Adam and Eve, unbidden. Thereafter generation began generation until the time of the Noah family's embarkation when the natural shower had become rather too much of a good thing.

After this, records are scanty until the Roman era. Their plumbing arrangements were admirably sophisticated: water, of varying temperature, was channelled to flow down upon the citizens with all the force of gravity. Then came the Dark Ages, which lasted for dirty centuries. Only the advent of a proper water-supply during the of Victoria enabled domestic engineers to design a proper shower. In 1897, before electricity, you could use legs to pump a pedal-shower, which was hard work. In 1902 the company founded by Thomas Crapper produced an "Independent shower-bath with spray". And in 1910 a bath was marketed with a curved enamel wall at one end, full of spouts. A children's home in Stockport had one, but gave it away because it used too much water.

As our century advanced, showers began appearing in many homes, though the English really preferred a bath. But since the power-shower every-



Victorian showerbath

thing has changed. The ultimate model is to be found at Cedar Falls Health Farm. It is England's only Vichy shower; imported from the French spa. It is magnificent and this is how it works: the showerer and attendant enter a tiled room where the former lies on a plastic couch and is oiled by the latter. A long metal arm, studded with nozzles, is swung across the recumbent body, whose spine is then pummelled by powerful jets of water. The room fills with steam. Everything becomes misty and dripping. The resultant sensation of decadent well-being is powerful enough to have brought about, without assistance, the rout and total collapse of the Roman Empire.

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NO 1: WADDESDON MANOR

SIT DOWN, have a glass of wine and flip through a catalogue. Relax - you're Christmas shopping and here's how to do it in style. Over the next few weeks, we will profile the best of the mail order catalogues offering design-led items for the home.

Waddesdon Manor is managed on behalf of the National Trust by a Rothschild trust. Its first ever mail-order catalogue is a revelation: the traditional offerings of potpourri, soaps and tea towels are nowhere to be seen. In their place is a selection of Rothschild wines, pretty china, well-designed children's toys and an assortment of gifts.

It's slim but classy - all the items are inspired by Waddesdon's own collection: ravishing notecards and boxed coasters inspired by a dark blue, Sevres orange tub, c1743, fluted wine glasses and a handsome, red-leather box decorated with a gold-tooled design taken from an 18th-century French bookbinding in the Waddesdon library.

The visionary behind these imaginative objects is Sara Sweetland, who was given a free hand to redesign the shop and its merchandise by Lord Rothschild. Sweetland says: "Rather than produce heavy duty replicas, it makes sense to capture the spirit of

Waddesdon by designing a range of goods taking elements from some of the items on display. I wanted to make the shop as visually exciting as the house itself - with the added buzz that you can buy the things you're seeing. Another mission is to keep the price down." Best buy: the set of four Sevres table mats, featuring a Sevres, porcelain roundel, c1780, in the Tower Room at Waddesdon for £12.95. Worst buy: the four pin cushions in the shape of two shoes, £6.75 each. Waddesdon Manor, Aylesbury, Bucks (01296 651282 ext 241).

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My life as a fictional character

The artist Sophie Calle spent a week in a telephone booth. Why? Because novelist Paul Auster told her to. By Elisabeth Mahoney

It's the stuff that some men's dreams are made of. A woman you've had your eye on for years offers herself to you. "I will do whatever you tell me," she says, "for up to one year. Nothing is out of bounds - the most important thing for me is to obey you." At this point, most mere mortal males would be reaching for the year-planner. But not if the woman in question is the French artist, Sophie Calle, and you are the American novelist, Paul Auster.

In his 1992 novel, *Leviathan*, Auster included a note in which he thanked Calle for allowing him to mingle fact with fiction in his portrayal of the character, Maria, an artist whose work the narrator describes as "too nutty... too idiosyncratic, too personal to be thought of as belonging to any particular medium or discipline".

This, if you're not familiar with Calle's work, is a pretty spot-on summary. Auster credits his character with some of Calle's more enigmatic art projects from the 1980s: following strangers on the streets of her native city, photographing them from a distance; pursuing one of these strangers to Venice and back again; examining the sleeping habits of strangers she invited to sleep in her bed; calling up every name in an address book she finds to piece together the story of a life; taking a job as a hotel chambermaid to gain access to guests' rooms, the contents of which she secretly photographs.

For such a keen chronicler of strange metropolitan life as Auster, these games on city streets - themselves blending fact and fiction - proved irresistible. But little can he have guessed how his own narrative would unfold. Some artists would have been flattered by the reference to their work, kept a copy of the novel in the house to show friends - that sort of thing. Not Calle. She decided to do a little fact and fiction mingling of her own, the results of which will go on show as part

of *Double Games*, a major exhibition of her work opening in Sheffield tomorrow.

First, she set about getting to know Maria better (that's Maria, the fictional character based on herself, you understand). Maria made art of strange, obsessive rituals as Calle does, but she had some fine oddities of her own - restricting herself to foods of one colour on a given day, for example, and living under the spell of one letter of the alphabet. Calle makes quick, funny work of copying this, as if to let the fictional artist know she's an absolute beginner in the idiosyncratic stakes.

Sticking to a rigidly chromatic diet for a week last December, Calle photographed

plains in wonderfully deadpan style, as if this is all completely normal. "Instead of writing about Maria imitating me, I wanted him to say her name was Sophie, that she was 45, lived in Paris and did this and that, which I would obey. I gave him one year of my life."

Unsurprisingly perhaps, Auster didn't take up the chance to take fiction out of the equation. "He didn't do it," says Calle, with the word "wimp" not mentioned, but written across her face, "because it was too big a responsibility." I ask her if she would really have gone through with whatever Auster had scripted. She looks at me as if I am mad. "Yes. It was my proposal. I was ready. But instead he sent me instructions for the

anonymous life, for a year. "Everything about it was hard," admits Calle, "because it was not my natural behaviour. I did it as a job. I did it because I said I would obey. The work's more about how I deal with it - it's more about me than usual and it involved me doing things I don't normally do, like talking to crazy people."

This new work, in loose collaboration with Auster, is indeed different in atmosphere from Calle's previous projects. It's lighter in tone, more playful, and obviously ironic. But like all her work, it involves some risk on the part of the artist and the artwork itself is not one precious object in a gallery, but a long (sometimes painfully so) drawn out process. When I ask her why she works in this way, Calle bristles visibly. "I wouldn't enter that level of self-analysis, it's not my job to be my own critic. I just know how things arrive. My work started for personal rather than artistic reasons. After travelling for seven years, I returned to Paris and began following people in the streets because I didn't know what to do with my life, I was lost."

From this aimless wandering came her first art projects, then Calle hired a private detective to follow and photograph her. After the address book project, she was publicly attacked (by the book's owner and critics alike) for intrusiveness, so her work turned autobiographical, culminating in the new work inspired by Auster's novel.

Through it all, there's a thread of voyeurism and impropriety, fact and fiction, sadism and masochism. It's as if Calle, like some latter-day *flâneur* on the streets of Paris, is still chasing the thrill that eludes us in the ennuï of our daily lives but which might just lurk around the next dark corner. She's still fascinated by the danger and unpredictability of urban life which took her to the South Bronx in 1980, which is the only time, says Calle, she ever put herself in real danger.



Sophie Calle's installation, cultivating a spot of her own in a New York phone booth

"I asked people to take me wherever they wanted in what was thought of as the most dangerous place I could go. One man told me to give him my money. He asked very nicely

and I handed it to him willingly. He left me enough to get the subway home and then came to the gallery opening." As ever with Calle, fact tends to be stranger than fiction.

Double Games opens tomorrow at Graves Art Gallery and Site Gallery, Sheffield, and runs up until 30 January 1999. In addition, a one-day conference discussing the

work of Sophie Calle will be held at Site Gallery on 26 November - call 0114 281 2077 for details. The exhibition will tour to Camden Arts Centre in February.



For such a keen chronicler of strange metropolitan life as Auster, these games proved irresistible

the unappealing offerings before tucking in with matching plastic cutlery. It's hard to say which day looks worse, the white (fish, rice, fromage blanc and milk) or the pink (ham and taramasalata, washed down with strawberry ice cream and rosé wine). But she has the greatest fun with the letter game, dressing up and living life to the letter B, C and W. For B, Calle is transformed into a Bardot-like babe surrounded by cute, furry animals (all beginning with the letter B, of course); for C, she's in a cemetery; and for W she goes for a weekend in Wallonia surrounded by W-inspired objects.

Now on quite intimate terms with Maria, Calle took the fact and fiction game one stage further. "I asked Paul to write the story of a character which I would obey," Calle ex-

plains in wonderfully deadpan style, as if this is all completely normal. "Instead of writing about Maria imitating me, I wanted him to say her name was Sophie, that she was 45, lived in Paris and did this and that, which I would obey. I gave him one year of my life."

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Surfing the moral sewer

AS DOROTHY Parker allegedly quipped: "Hollywood will suck you when nobody else will." And she didn't mean it as a compliment. But the remark, quoted in *The Black Dahlia*, seems a touch flattering to the moral sewer we observe late Forties Tinseltown and Los Angeles to have been.

Directed by Mark Alfreds, this Method and Madness production is a highly delectable and involving stage adaptation of James Ellroy's testosterone-charged latrine-trawl of an LAPD novel. As you watch it, though, you can't help wondering why the movies didn't get here first.

The book is considerably more filmic than Ellroy's *LA Confidential* which was a huge screen hit. After all, what could be more photogenic or dryly self-referential than the sequence in which, while the HOLLYWOODLAND sign on Mt Lee is being topped off its final syllable, the demolition work in the area uncovers the stomach-turning

THEATRE

THE BLACK DAHLIA

DERBY PLAYHOUSE

shack where beautiful Betty Short was tortured, drained of blood and cut in half?

Based on a true, unsolved case, the murder becomes the obsession of Officer Dwight "Bucky" Bleichert. But what gives the story its peculiarly ferocious intensity is the author's personal investment in it. Ellroy's own mother was strangled and dumped in some bushes in a sleazy LA locality and, accordingly, *The Black Dahlia* is published with the unsettling dedication: "Mother: 20-nine years later. This Validation in Blood."

Alfreds and his crack ensemble create a tremendous sense of the drivenness with which Eliot Guraloroca's neved-up Bucky conducts his inquiries. Peter McIntosh's resourceful set places the action in a permanent locker room

surround, surmounted by a Hollywood billboard that fights up like some electronic advent calendar with whatever symbols (Picasso paintings, stuffed dogs, photographs of Betty etc.) are needed for a scene.

Moving at the speed of light, or, anyway, of a lighting switch from, say, a lesbian bar to a Tijuana cell to a red-neon bathed sleazy motel room, the production makes no concessions to the slow-witted.

The start, for example, is theatrically thrilling - a boxing match which keeps being freeze-framed for dramatized recapitulations of what led up to it - and is a long sequence that really shows off the razor sharp reflexes and co-ordination of this company.

But I'm not sure how intelligible, in basic plot terms, it would be to anyone who has not read the book. Themes familiar from *LA Confidential* - the corruption of cops, their screwed-up sex lives, their behaviour unprofessionally dic-

tated by their own family history - recur here, with many cynical twists.

Theatre's tendency towards non-naturalism enables Alfreds to depict the motel room as a psychic diagram of Bucky's perverse compulsion to confabulate bed mates with the dead Betty. The set's walls of lockers are used, with versatile artistic flair, to emblemise the various disclosures, as when they magically open like a warped Aladdin's cave to reveal the murderers' many jars of pickled human remains.

Two old ladies walked out towards the end of the performance during a graphic description of the killing. Odd, because they had survived quite a bit by that stage, including talk of a cop vengefully blinding prostitutes by rubbing his syphilitic penis in their eyes. Me. I was glued to my seat.

PAUL TAYLOR

To 21 Nov, then touring. Box office: 01332 363275

The architecture of life

THE YOUNG guide said: "You are my group and I am your leader." We felt a bit like herded schoolchildren, but he was charming and blond and anyway it was exciting to find ourselves in the British Library after hours to find - what? We were on the thrilling brink of the unknown.

There were 500 of us, divided into carefully marshalled platoons, as we entered the building's calm, contemplative interior. We even included the architect, Sir Colin St John Wilson, who had watched a rehearsal and had been so enthused at seeing his building transformed that he had returned for a second helping.

The American choreographer Stephen Koplowitz's *Babel Index* is a site-specific performance on a grand scale. Commissioned by Dance Umbrella, it requires a baffling orchestration of people in different places at the same

DANCE

BABEL INDEX

BRITISH LIBRARY LONDON

time. Like Koplowitz's *Grand Canyon* at the Natural History Museum two years ago, *Babel Index* takes inspiration from the building's physical design and invokes its mission as a storehouse of human knowledge.

Outside in the forecourt, 11 draped figures stand on pedestals, like caryatids. They mould themselves in slow shapes and hold opened books, light shining from the pages: a visual pun intended to suggest medieval illuminated texts and glowing computer screens. Inside, the rest of the 54 dancers, dressed in Craig Givens's red worker-suits, are deployed on two levels, for viewing by the promenading spectators.

The opening dance, repli-

cated on both floors, each shows 12 dancers, sitting still, then slowly expanding into action, as the taped sound of breathing is replaced by whispering voices, then Jonathan Stone's music.

We might be watching the stirring of life, the beginning of speech. And with the curves and lines of the contrapuntal bodies against a floor like parchment, writing is being created before our eyes.

The second section, a collection of separate simultaneous events, is not entirely identical on the two floors, so it is not possible for anyone to see everything. You wander around and find a sextet positioned on a flight of stairs, passing books up and down, as though knowledge is being transferred through the ages. Another group is surrounded by newsprint; a lone man lurches from side to side at the top of a vertiginous Babel tower, gath-

ering invisible languages; and in the distance, on a high balcony, stands a line of singers.

Considered as isolated movement, the choreography is semaphoric and simplistic, but it makes an impact in its massed patterns.

This applies especially to the final section, watched by everyone from the entrance hall, as the dancers on three balconies unfurl from a spiral staircase like a scroll. They spread out and sway - a Mexican wave. Arms spike out in star shapes and brandish books the way Mao Tse Tung's crowds did, except this is a populace indoctrinated by the freedom of learning. By now the climax has arrived, with projections of script and human images. And when everything stops you have experienced something unique: a beautiful building, honoured, celebrated, and brought to unexpected life.

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Too good to be forgotten

the crowd or you're not. He was never in."

In 1960, he confirmed his originality in startling fashion with the album, *Freeform*, most of which was written from a hospital bed after he contracted tuberculosis. It was a starkly abstract work making little use of set harmonic sequences and came at a time when jazz was in a state of flux,



Redferns

Despite the image that jazz had as a music of free expression, it was shot through with divisions and factions. Traditionalists and modernists didn't mix. Harriott's music was problematic in that it didn't fall into any neat compartments. Not everybody dug it, as Coleridge Goode recalls: "A lot of the musicians would scoff at what we were doing ... Joe had a concept of breaking things up and not playing in a strict

The musical chemistry between the two was extremely fruitful, but what was Harriott like to work with? "Bloody difficult," laughs Mayer. "He was sometimes very stubborn. We argued about everything: sometimes musical things, then how should we go on the bloody coach to a gig. He was difficult." This is said with affection.

"He was fiercely proud. He wouldn't play the hanging-in game. He wouldn't hang around at Ronnie Scott's to be seen," explains Michael Garrick. "He thought himself above all that, so he didn't make any effort to become one of the lads, and that's very important in British jazz ... you're either in with

'Freeform', 'Abstract' and 'Indo-Jazz Fusions' are on Verve Records. 'Swingin' High' is on Cadillac

No blues. So what

REVIEW

We were all probably hoping that pianist Geri Allen's trio would feature bassist Buster Williams and drummer Lenny White from her marvelous album *The Gathering*. Instead we got two sturdy yemenites who were eminently capable but somewhat lacking in subtlety. Perhaps as a result, Allen chose to concentrate on heavily percussive, blues-based themes rather than pellucid keyboard meditations. As she pounded her way through the set, individual notes disappeared in a washwash of overtones, the volume levels got louder, and one became unmistakably aware, as if in a kind of out-of-body experience, that the in-

If the experience of Allen and her trio was strange, the young British pianist and rising star Nikki Yeoh, who opened with a solo set, was just bonkers. Scheduled for 45 minutes, she played for 70 and al-

But if God was in the QEHe on Tuesday night (and not at the RFEH, listening to Dave Brubeck), He must have been a proper Old Testament, crotchety granddad, fiddling mischievously with the faders on the sound desk and laughing his socks off.

THE LAST time Brubeck played London, his band were evening suits. This time, they were evening suits and a woman on my row produced opera glasses. At 77, Brubeck attracts and enjoys the trappings of the classical tradition in which he was apprenticed.

His first British tour was exactly 40 years ago. He was already jazz's latest big thing — an ex-student of Milhaud and Schoenberg who had taken the jazz scene by storm by bringing the music out of the late-night, big-city jazz club and onto the college campus. He played privately for presidents and popes and charmed generations of housewives who ordinarily would not have much time for modern jazz. Members of the audience from that 1958 visit have been invited to a special concert where they will meet Brubeck and chew the cud over old times — an image, I suspect, somewhat akin to *Room 101* for anyone without a love of jazz.

His quartet this time included fine British bassist Alec

Dankworth and drummer Randy Jones. But everyone was blown away by Bobby Militello, a stunning alto saxophonist and flautist and the kind of musician it is truly an honour to hear—steeped in the entire history of the music, a master of his instruments at any tempo, imaginative and inspired throughout every moment of the concert.

His sound was rooted in bebop, but one moment it came with a soft Lee Konitz flit, the next a buzz of Sonoran-style static. His rapport with the leader was special, too. They dueted, Baroque-style, like two lines from a Goldberg Variation.

Wynton Marsalis likes to define jazz as "blues and swing." Dave Brubeck has done very well for almost 50 years without showing much

interest in either. But he is fascinated by a wider definition of harmony and rhythm, using his classical education yet producing a music that trembles with the spontaneity that jazz's distinguishing feature.

He sounded much more incisive and excited about his own playing in the second half (perhaps because the piano had been tuned during the interval) and it is surely a sign of this man's ingenuity that he can play a single anthem over and over and make it sound like the best performance imaginable every time.

He closed the second set with the inevitable "Take Five," but it sounded like magic, Mitello producing an ethereal stream-of-consciousness, Brubeck darting around the keyboard with breathtaking resourcefulness. It took two encores before an emotional audience would go home.

Brubeck prepared for the next city. At 77, most of us would be happy if we could still tie our own shoelaces.

LINTON CRISWICK

James: sit down

James: The Best Of
the Undiscovered James Earl Ray

fontana

55 من الاصل

A mere three score and ten

As Kurt Masur takes the reins at the LPO, he joins the swelling ranks of London's seventysomething maestros. And they're all young at heart. By Rob Cowan



Kurt Masur: 'Attending a concert should mean more than just listening to music... We have a duty to educate our audiences'

It seems that London in the new Millennium is set to become the European centre for septuagenarian maestros. Last year the London Symphony Orchestra lit 70th birthday candles for Sir Colin Davis; next year, the Philharmonia will do the same for Christoph von Dohnányi, and when German-born Kurt Masur takes the reins as principal conductor-designate of the London Philharmonic on 19 November, he will be 70 years and four months old. Bernard Haitink, another notable near-septuagenarian, keeps the London Philharmonic's presidency. All four conductors view repertoire innovation from a secure bedrock of European musical tradition, and all bring with them a wealth, weathered – and dare I say – youthful musicality. Masur is among the finest living exponents of Beethoven, Schumann, Mendelssohn, Liszt and Reger. He will be in full office from the season 2000/2001, having first conducted the orchestra back in 1987 – coincidentally, in Grieg's incidental music for *Peer Gynt*, the very work that he is due to perform at the Royal Festival Hall next Thursday. I wondered how the new appointment might affect the London Philharmonic's current profile. "Masur is a multinational personality who is very keen on the idea of musical exploration," says the orchestra's chief executive and artistic director, Serge Dorny. "That should enable us to maximise our educational and intercultural plans." These include forging creative inroads among disparate cultural groups, organising workshops (about 150 a year), creating child-friendly sound-zones while mums and dads attend the concert (principally at the Royal Festival Hall) and launching ticket subsidies in deprived areas. "I view the orchestra like a precious stone," says Dorny. "If you turn it around, you will see unexpected reflections that add to its value and attractiveness."

He would also like to experiment with rush-hour concerts, an idea that worked particularly well in New York. "Life is changing, and the organisation of life is changing," he says. "We must also involve the other arts, maybe bring music and literature together, find a connection between music and painting, sculpture or philosophical ideas. Attending a concert should mean a lot more than just listening to music for a couple of hours, then going home. We are not 'entertainers'. We have a duty to educate our audiences, help them understand better." Significant orchestral works with narrators, such as Honegger's *Joan of Arc at the Stake* and Franck's *Psyché*, have already won Masur considerable praise, and possible future plans for London include a Beethoven symphony cycle based on the latest textual sources, complete with open discussions and public discourses. "At one particular Beethoven concert in New York, we talked to the audience before the event," he recalls, "but just as the programme was about to begin, we suggested continuing the discussion after the concert as well. Would you believe that 500 people stayed? They didn't want to go home! New music is another priority, preferably served within a menu of older repertoire. The idea is to listen afresh to everything. Like most accomplished conductors, Kurt Masur is an enemy of routine and laziness. "Peoples' tastes are changing, but not all those changes are for the good," he says emphatically. "For example, I would not condone listening to Beethoven 'in the style of Mantovani'. I mean, five minutes of a symphony, or the 'best' Tchaikovsky melodies condensed into 10 minutes." In New York, he had his work cut out elevating Tchaikovsky from "pop" concert status to serious symphonist, largely by programming all six numbered symphonies in sequence. It was worth the effort. "I once asked the revered Russian conductor Evgeny Mravinsky how he might battle against routine," Masur said, smiling, "especially in works that he played again and again on tour. 'That's very easy,' Mravinsky told me, 'I'll sense the orchestra is playing mechanically, that they feel they know everything, then we do three

rehearsals: we discover the beauty again.' And that type of discovery is just as important for an audience." A born democrat, Masur none the less appreciates the positive application of musical authority, especially when it comes to recording. He cites Herbert von Karajan: "Everybody hated the power that he wielded. But he himself once said to me, 'I don't know why they criticise me for that. Only the orchestra knows when we play a piece so well that we want to document it in a recording.' In other words, it was Karajan and the Berlin Philharmonic who decided when to record, not the record company. "What usually happens is that the company asks for a Beethoven symphony cycle; the conductor complains that the orchestra isn't yet familiar with, say, the *Pastoral Symphony*, and then some executive says, 'That's all right, you just rehearse it and then record it.' I can promise you that Karajan's approach is right."

Kurt Masur is, above all, a profoundly compassionate man. He showed unprecedented courage when, in Leipzig in 1989, a visit from Mikhail Gorbachev triggered a series of public protests and he threw open the doors of the Gewandhaus (cloth hall) Hall for what turned out to be the first open public forum in the GDR for 40 years. "Of course, I had never done this kind of thing before," he admits modestly. "But it did show how much the reputation of the Gewandhaus (cloth hall) Orchestra and principal conductor Kurt Masur was in the minds of everybody, even of those who were not concertgoers. It showed that they could ac-

tually trust us – and at that time, trust was all we asked for. If music is able to achieve that, then it's already enough for me. You know, I have this recurring dream. I imagine a concert hall that could accommodate all the people of the world, where we could play great music and unite them... – he stops for moment, thinks, and then adds – "for at least two hours".

Kurt Masur conducts the LPO at the RFH, London (booking: 0171-960 4242) on 19 and 27 November

ON THE AIR ANTHONY PAYNE

THE TWO giants of early 20th century Scandinavian music, Nielsen and Sibelius, have not achieved equal success outside their native countries. Although Nielsen once had the distinction of being crowned Scandinavia's greatest composer, with Sibelius himself quoted as having said to him: "I don't reach as high as your ankles," he did not achieve international recognition until after the Second World War, by which time Sibelius was being performed and recorded abroad with the regularity of a classic master. The reasons for this are perhaps similar to those that have been said to account for the unjust neglect of much of Haydn's work as opposed to Mozart's. Their is an element of romantic subjectivity in Mozart which Haydn's intellectual sinew could not admit. Similarly, there is a balance of heart and mind in Nielsen which does not find it as easy to attract audiences as Sibelius' powerfully suppressed romanticism. Few nowadays would be willing to argue the superiority of either great composer over the other; but the concert and recorded repertoires have yet to recognise their equality, and events like BBC Radio 3's Nielsen Festival last week are still needed to restore the balance. Other arts describe life, Nielsen once said, music is life, and under the title *Music as Life*, Osmo Vanska and the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra surveyed the complete symphonic canon over four evenings. These included some magnificently spirited performances through which it could truly be said the high current of Nielsen's creative life force continually flowed. The titanic struggles which erupt in the last three symphonies were exhilaratingly characterised, and placed in masterful control overall structures. Taut and concentrated though these interpretations were, there was still room for expansion, including space for a tenderness which while uttered, and placed in masterful control overall structures. Taut and concentrated though these interpretations were, there was still room for expansion, including space for a tenderness which while uttered,

Fellow Scandinavian Sibelius is quoted as saying to Nielsen: 'I don't reach as high as your ankles'

ly unselfish was most touching. As preparation for the crowning glory of the cycle – a shattering performance on Monday of the mighty Fifth Symphony – there was on Saturday afternoon a specially com-

missioned fantasy about the work which did an eloquent job in charting its unique emotional and intellectual territory. Time was when Radio 3, or its equivalent, presented programmes every week which seriously discussed a piece of music. For whatever reason, such broadcasts became increasingly rare. Perhaps the upper echelons at the BBC felt that listeners did not want the equivalent of a lecture. Was the word elitist banded about? I think I'll scream if I hear that word traduced much more. It involves the maintenance of high standards not condensation. There are many that I know regret the loss of programmes like Antony Hopkins' *Talking About Music*, and in an era obsessed with soundbites, help with listening to long symphonic spans can be a useful antidote. It does not have to be aimed above the heads of the technically uninitiated, and this programme proved how musical processes can be verbalised in terms of life experience. Nielsen's own mordant written and spoken phrases, for instance, were drawn upon with great profit. At the beginning of the Fifth Symphony he felt as if he was walking in the countryside, ideas occurred to him without conscious effort as if concerning vegetative nature, later more conscious effort enabled him to come to grips with existence's warring elements. Such descriptions need to be acutely focused if naivety is to be avoided, and this programme got it just right. I relished Stephen Johnson's perception that an act of will, not organic evolution, yields the symphony's triumph – a profound thought to be mullied over. More of this kind of thing, please.

In league with the prince of darkness

REVIEW
STRAVINSKY SERIES
BARBICAN
LONDON



Michael Tilson Thomas: cajoling a mighty handful of players

A CONCERT series entitled *Stravinsky and the Stage* is less of a contradiction than it might at first seem. Stravinsky's "stage", Stravinsky's "theatre", has long since flourished where choreographers, designers, and stage directors do not. That strangest of performance spaces – the concert platform – where formally attired musicians play out a composer's fancies to the cajolement of a conductor's baton, is its own drama: an intensely physical and yet oddly dispassionate ritual in which we, the audience, are at once silent watchers and active participants. The *mise en scène* – a study in black and white – sits well with Stravinsky's sense of detachment, abstraction, stylisation. He might even have imagined *The Soldier's Tale* in this way. An empty space, a row of chairs, a stool, a table, a glass of water. Seven instrumentalists (the London Symphony finest), a conductor (Michael Tilson Thomas), an "actor" (the excellent Peter Eyre) trooping in, the sheer incongruity of white ties and tails adorning what is essentially a dressing stage that is essentially a mystery play with mezzor band accompaniment – all scruffy, weathered, earth tones and fractured metres. The theatrical machinations of this chilly little parable – as played out in WH Auden's creepily monochromatic text are rudimentary. Stravinsky calls the tune, and the tune is the devil's work. Nothing in this capricious score, not even its insidious allusions to the popular music of the times, is quite what it seems. Tilson Thomas and his mighty handful of LSO principals (concert master of the pernicious *dances macabres*) gave an absolutely crackling account of it. Peter Eyre looked on, his oral costume changes as deft, as devilish, as Stravinsky's cabaret takes on Russian folklore. Once upon a time, it had all been so very different. Sergei Diaghilev decreed it so. The second half of this opening concert (the first of three), found Tilson Thomas and the LSO spitting us back to where it all began: the enchanted garden of the evil Kashchey. Enter *The Firebird*. In this wide-eyed and fantastical score, where the ubiquitous solo horn opens up one magic casement after another, an exquisite gaudiness must prevail. Refinement, but not at the expense of the primary colours. Tilson Thomas knows that better than most. Fagan and precious do not mix. And so the wash of string tremolandi descending like a veil over the penultimate scene of

Firebird was something you could almost reach out and touch. A tangible magic. Stravinsky's "folksiness" is not implicit, impressionistic – it is fleshy and overt. How refreshing, then, to hear a performance of his next great ballet, *Petrushka*, that was rip-roaring in the best sense, a performance so unapologetically intoxicated by the brilliance and vitality of the material, not least, of course, those all-singing, all-dancing folk tunes. I cannot remember when I last heard a more virtuosic account than the LSO gave us here. *Petrushka* and *Pulcinella* were a most companionable pairing for this second concert of the series. The latter, of course, "paid homage" to Pergolesi while robbing him blind. But how charmingly, how wittily Stravinsky, the born-again classicist, reinvented this music, unlikely instrumentations and refracted harmonies, further tweaking at the happy alliance of courtly grace and courtyard horseplay. A dodgy mezzo, Ruby Philogene, plainly out of kilter with the style (the elegant tenor Kenneth Tarver, and the ripe bass David Wilson-Johnson caught it well enough), somewhat upset the balance of this otherwise engaging rendition of the complete score. But we were not at a loss for Stravinsky's beautiful and rarely performed tripartite, its middle section originally intended to underscore the hunting-scene of Robert Stevenson's Hollywood film of Brontë's *Jane Eyre*. Imagine that. EDWARD SECKERSON

THE COMPACT COLLECTION ROB COWAN ON THE WEEK'S CD RELEASES

I HAVE often wondered how our critical faculties would react if all the radio archives across the world were to pool their resources and flood the CD market with exciting live historic recordings. Would people suddenly get wise to the bland predictability of so many studio productions? Well, it could certainly happen – and BBC Music's long-awaited *Legends* CDs follow a trend that has already gained considerable momentum throughout the rest of the Europe. Production values on the new series are high: the presentation is up-beat, the annotation is informative and well written, and the technical restoration mostly excellent. Initial choices have been judicious, repertoire-wise, centring for the most part on exceptional performances in better-than-average sound. Top of the list for many will be Sir John Barbirolli's affectionate saunter through Mahler's epic Third Symphony, taped at Manchester Free Trade Hall in 1969 and featuring contralto Kertsin Meyer, the Hallé Ladies Choir, the Boys of Manchester Grammar School and the Hallé Orchestra. Although far from pristine (the brass in particular have their dicey moments), the "feel" of the performance is precisely right, especially at the centre of the long first movement where Mahler prepares for "summer marching in". The minuetto is limpid and pastel-shaded, the scherzo full of fantasy, and the slow finale, predictably loving. The peroration is overwhelming and when the triumphant closing bars have finally sounded, you enjoy the uncanny (and appropriate) sense of returning home from some idealised dream-world. Great music-making has the potential to elevate or transport us, a situation more likely to occur in concert than in the stuffy atmosphere of a recording studio. I wouldn't even attempt to count how many commercial records the Amadeus Quartet have made over the years, but one thing is for sure: few if any display the fervour generated in a performance of the Brahms' *Piano Quintet* with Sir Clifford Curzon, taped live at the Royal Festival Hall back in 1974. High on adrenalin and strong on emotion, all five players lunge at this expansive score with absolute commitment, reaching unprecedented inspirational heights in the slow movement and finale. The same package also includes a genial account of Schubert's *Trout Quintet*, recorded three years earlier. Choosing a third disc from this batch of *Legends* might have proved difficult had not been for a bout of flu. Miserable, listless and tucked up in bed, I had the bizarre notion of sampling – via headphones – Respighi's *Pines of Rome* in a 1967 Bournemouth Symphony recording under Constantin Silvestri. By the time I had journeyed past "The Pines of the Appian Way", I felt fit enough to run a marathon. It is quite simply the most stunning account of the *Pines* to have come my way since Toscanini's in the 1950s, and the same CD includes a fine though idiosyncratic performance of Tchaikovsky's troubled *Manfred Symphony*. Perhaps it should be made available on prescription. All on the BBC Legends label in the upper mid price range: Mahler/Barbirolli: BBCL 4004-2 (2 discs); Brahms, Schubert/Curzon, Amadeus Quartet: BBCL 4009-2 (1 disc plus bonus CD); Tchaikovsky, Respighi/Silvestri: BBCL 4007-2

Madness thy name is Boris

In Francesca Zambello's *Boris Godunov* at ENO, Russia's past is its present. By Edward Seckerson

ITS THE bells we hear first, the bells that toll for Mother Russia, past, present, and future. For whichever way you look at Francesca Zambello's tremendous new production of Mussorgsky's *Boris Godunov*, Russia's past, present, and future are one. "The opera takes place in Russia's Time of Troubles," reads the programme synopsis. Which is then, which is now. In the grimy netherworld of Hildegard Bechtler's brutalist designs, you almost don't notice what the people wear. They are anonymous. They are what they always were: puppets of the State – poor, down-trodden, long-suffering, easily bought. Rent-a-crowd. When first we see them, they are all gathered outside the "Novodevichy Monastery," urging Boris – with a little encouragement from the grey-suited, baton-wielding secret police – to take the Tsar's throne. Heavy ironwork bars down on them, a cold grey light illuminates monochrome images of a polluted landscape.

But then comes an extraordinary moment. Behind the iron grills, and bathed in the warm, rosy glow of history, advancing pilgrims bear

candles, a glimpse, a flashback of Russia's past. And a foretaste of the coronation, where the stage opens up to its full depth like an empty gallery space whose main installation is a burnished gold wall upon which hang icon-like portraits of political leaders peering out through a mess of wiring. A video monitor hangs incongruously to one side. Boris is wheeled in on a moveable dais, his portrait emblazoned behind him. He wears the formal three-piece suit of today, an ornate crucifix his only concession to the past. Family and officials around him are dressed in the gold-embossed splendour of traditional 18th-century vestments. Past and present collide, but nothing changes. And through-out this teasing chronicle that is Mussorgsky's great opera – given here (with one significant addition) in its stark and uncompromising original version – there is but one witness, that enduring symbol of Russian folklore: the Simpleton, the wise-fool. Zambello gives him rare prominence, she gives him an umpire's chair from which he is all-seeing, all-knowing.

Zambello is an exciting director. She has a natural feel for the epic sprawl. She loves the open stage. This show is literally manhandled from one scene to the next, token scenery unceremoniously pushed and dragged in and out of the action. Her crowd-control is outstanding: she can turn the operatic cliché – the cowering chorus with outstretched hands – into a thrilling frozen tableau; she can have Boris disappearing into a sea of those same hands like a drowning man; she can take your breath away with the seemingly obvious. Like Boris delivering his great monologue, "I stand supreme in power," astride the map of his domains. Like the unsettling scene between Boris and the odious Prince Shuisky (an oily Robert Tear) played out here like a burlesque between two madmen keeping up appearances. It is Shuisky who literally opens the door to Boris's nightmare at the close of that scene. It is the Simpleton – Boris's conscience – who comes through it, an apparition of the murdered Dmitry. Why has no one thought of that before?



John Tomlinson: a Boris with all the authority and operatic extravagance of a bygone age

Laurie Lewis

John Tomlinson plays Boris with all the authority and operatic extravagance of a bygone age. But his whole demeanour suggests a thoroughly modern madness – like Yeltsin on a bad day. Call it melodrama, if you like, but it rings horribly true. There are stand-out performances all around him: John Connell's Pimen, Jeremy White's Valaam, John Daszak's Grigory,

Susan Gritton's Xenia, Timothy Robinson's Simpleton, Della Jones, no less, oversteps in every respect as the Inkeeper. But collective spirit counts for more than individual worth in a piece like this, and ENO's music director Paul Daniel, responding in kind to the sheer weight of history conveyed in Mussorgsky's grave and ruthlessly economical score, displayed compelling leader-

ship. This is an opera about a people. And the people – as portrayed in all their complexions by the seething ranks of the ENO chorus – were magnificent. Small wonder Daniel and Zambello chose to add the Kromy Revolution scene – one of the great virtuoso choral scenes of all time – to Mussorgsky's 1869 version. No sooner is Boris dead and his heir despatched than angry mobs

haemorrhage on to the stage. The arrival of Dmitry, the Pretender, in a mirror image of Boris's coronation, signals yet another brave new dawn. Except it isn't, is it? Only the Simpleton knows better. Iron grills descend, imprisoning the people once more. The Simpleton puts his head in a noose. Fade to black. Coliseum, London, tomorrow and Wed (booking: 0171 632 8300)

When two or three Labs gather together

After years of persecution Albanian musicians still suffer shortage and hardship, but their art – and unique Lab singing – thrive. By Michael Church

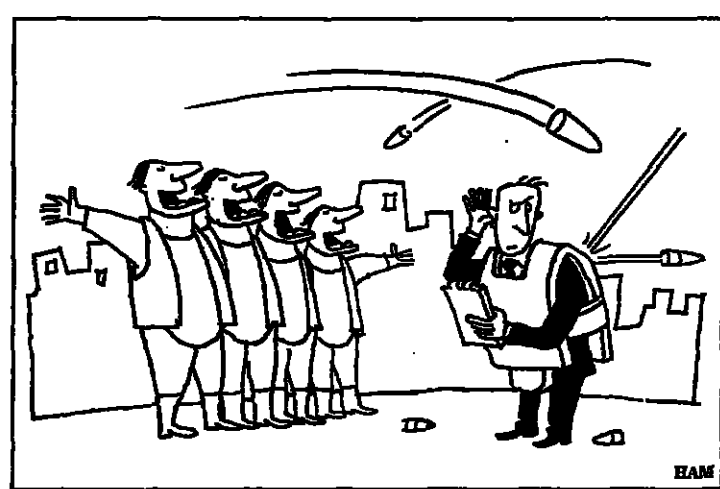
A YOUNG Albanian violinist told me last week: "You would be mad to go to Vlora – but if you must go, take a gun, because everyone else there has one." This pretty Adriatic port is now the handi-capital of the Balkans, with huge fortunes being made through drugs, gun-running, and illegal immigration. The racketeers race around in giant Mercedes, the police wear balacavas and no-body walks in the streets at night.

But Vlora has another claim to fame: Europe's earliest form of polyphony originated there, and can be heard there still. Periodically the singers – descendants of the original Laberia shepherds who created this pentatonic style – come down from the hills to convene in Vlora. Last Sunday, without a gun but escorted by the formidable young woman who runs the British Council in Tirana, I met and recorded two of these groups.

It is said that when two or three Labs get together they start singing in polyphony, and that was certainly how it seemed in the theatre where the first group, Cipini, were rehearsing: little musical huddles kept developing wherever I looked. Was this, as Lab champions claim,

how Homer's heroes hymned their woes and triumphs? Very possibly. While the lower parts produced a muscular battery of drones, the lead singer wove a melismatic descent above. Each chorus was a hard blast of sound which ended in an abrupt, spine-tingling silence. I found the second group at Vlora's job-centre, but their music, while following the same tight form, could not have been more different. Where Cipini had been ruggedly virile, Bilbili – "the Nightingales" – were beguilingly sweet, with accompaniment from a shepherd's double flute. They first sang a love-song, then they did a scarf dance, then they sang a lament of piercing sadness: a mother's song for the son who had sailed away and never came back.

"We sing with the same spirit Princess Di showed for people in danger," explained their spokesman, without irony. "The spirit of Lab music is self-sacrifice." Why was this such an affecting moment? From the window we could see the speedboats waiting to ferry their nightly human cargo to death or prosperity, while directly over the singers' heads loomed Vlora's unemployment



SIGHT READINGS



MICHAEL CHURCH

chart. Yet what we were hearing had a timeless nobility and innocence. Next summer, if the British ambassador to Tirana has his way, these singers will perform in Edinburgh. Albania, still jittery after the latest attempted coup, is in desperate straits. The 30-year-old prime minister and his team face a land permeated by the mafia, bankrupted by pyramid schemes, awash with weapons and destabilised by war on

its border. Almost every educated young person I met was planning to emigrate. When I asked the minister of culture, a painter called Edi Rama, what he wanted to achieve, the reply was pitiful. "Even living in this hell, we cannot give up hope. We have to try, by doing small things, to induce change." His initial project is to build a cinema, because there is none in the land. So much for the legacy of President Hoxha

and decades of cosying up to China. That legacy is writ large in the souls of Albania's classical musicians, for Mao's proscriptions had their counterparts here. Until 1990 it was against the law to play decadent modern music such as Ravel and Debussy, with Prokofiev and Stravinsky even further beyond the pale. Bach and Handel were banned on religious grounds. From Nora Caskhu, the pianist who is dean of music at the arts

academy, I learned the extent of this persecution. The conductor of a choir she sang with in the Seventies was imprisoned for seven years for having the temerity to perform Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*, and on his release got a further period of enforced manual labour. So was Baroque music a samizdat pleasure? Caskhu sighs. "We had no records, no sheet music. And anyway, if it had been heard, we would have been condemned." According to the academy's vice-rector, violinist Bujar Sytkja, "radio was our only window on the culture we were starved of".

When Communism collapsed, says Sytkja, "a new world opened for us"; Caskhu's conductor can now present Pergolesi whenever he chooses; singers at the Tirana opera can deliver Mozart in German rather than Albanian. But now they are assailed by a different kind of poverty. "Only after 1990 did we know what a good instrument was," says Sytkja. Few had ever had one – and many had never even heard one. Now they could not afford one.

Hardly any of the excellent players at the opera house own the instruments they play: they borrow them from the state. Tuition at the

academy may be superb, but the pianos are abominable: the only decent one, a gift from the German embassy, remains locked except for special occasions. Sytkja and Caskhu have accordingly asked me to pass on a plea to Britain's conservatoires: rather than simply throwing out their used records, sheet music, and instruments, could they throw them in the direction of Tirana? "If they will give them to us, we will pay the cost of transporting them," says Sytkja.

Musicians are resilient creatures here as anywhere else. Trombonist Romeo Mano – who makes ends meet by translating evangelical literature – told me of the pride the orchestra felt when touring Italy in September. "While television was showing riots in Tirana, we were showing that there were still Albanians devoting their lives to art." But he still thinks he and his family will have to leave, as does his friend the cellist Ilir Merzhushi. Where will Ilir go? "I hope to Zagreb. They have a few problems in Croatia, but nothing like ours. These are very dark days for Albania."

Sanctuary in Croatia? That, I fear, puts it all in perspective.

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<p>WIGMORE HALL Box Office: 0171 333 2141 Opening: 10.30.15</p> <p>13 Nov 7.30pm MAX LEVINSON piano First Prize 1987 Gavarni Double International Music Competition, Brahms: Variations on an original theme Op.10.1, Chopin: Nocturne Op.9 No.3, Schumann: 6 Little Piano Pieces Op.10.1, Liszt: Sonata in B minor (1844) C11, C12, C13, C14, C15, C16, C17, C18, C19, C20, C21, C22, C23, C24, C25, C26, C27, C28, C29, C30, C31, C32, C33, C34, C35, C36, C37, C38, C39, C40, C41, C42, C43, C44, C45, C46, C47, C48, C49, C50, C51, C52, C53, C54, C55, C56, C57, C58, C59, C60, C61, C62, C63, C64, C65, C66, C67, C68, C69, C70, C71, C72, C73, C74, C75, C76, C77, C78, C79, C80, C81, C82, C83, C84, C85, C86, C87, C88, C89, C90, C91, C92, C93, C94, C95, C96, C97, C98, C99, C100, C101, C102, C103, C104, C105, C106, C107, C108, C109, C110, C111, C112, C113, C114, C115, C116, C117, C118, C119, C120, C121, C122, C123, C124, C125, C126, C127, C128, C129, C130, C131, C132, C133, C134, C135, C136, C137, C138, C139, 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NEW FILMS

BLADE (18)

Director: Stephen Norrington
Starring: Wesley Snipes, Stephen Dorff
A techno soundtrack bumps and grinds behind this monstrous arcade-game thriller about a New York vampire-killer tackling a power-crazed neo-Nazi. Noise and martial-arts action mask its thin pedigree. **West End: Elephant & Castle, Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End.**

DESTINY (AL MASSIR - LE DESTIN) (NC)

Director: Youssef Chahine
Starring: Nour El Cherif
Chahine's flamboyant period fancy spins the yarn of a liberal sage and his battles with the rigid social order at large in medieval Spain. An implicit critique of Islamic oppression, *Destiny* takes wing with a burst of traditional dance and deep-colour visuals. **West End: ICA Cinema**

FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS (18)

Director: Terry Gilliam
Starring: Johnny Depp, Benicio Del Toro
Gilliam's adaptation tilts at Ralph Steadman cartoonery for its tale of a drug-fuelled journalistic assignment. Incident, caricature and lurid Seventies fashions are substituted for plot and character, and the film soon descends into narcotic lunacy. The one stand-out is Johnny Depp, who brings Hunter S Thompson to bald-headed, pigeon-toed life. **West End: ABC Boker Street, Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, Rio Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket**

FIRE (15)

Director: Deepa Mehta
Starring: Shabana Azmi, Jaaved Jafari, Nandita Das
Mehta's Indian-Canadian co-production mounts a vibrant, and at times potent, attack on the Indian family set-up, with its tale of a fractious New Delhi brood. Strong ensemble playing riffs nicely off Mehta's taboobucking script. **West End: Curzon Soho**

HENRY FOOL (18)

Director: Hal Hartley
Starring: James Urbaniak, Parker Posey
See *The Independent Recommends*, right. **West End: Chelsea Cinema, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Renoir, Richmond Filmhouse, Ritzy Cinema**

HOPE FLOATS (PG)

Director: Forest Whitaker
Starring: Sandra Bullock
Spoonfuls of sugar all round in Whitaker's romantic drama: a winsome piece that turns a loving eye on Sandra Bullock as a down-in-the-dumps ex-beauty queen. Cue Gena Rowlands as a feisty mum, Harry Connick Jr as a bashful handyman, and acre upon acre of bumper-sticker wisdom. **West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End**

INSOMNIA (18)

Director: Erik Skjoldbjærg
Starring: Stellan Skarsgård
Dubbed a "film blanc" by its creator, *Insomnia* transplants noir stylistics to the landscape of summertime Norway. Its cop hero (Skarsgård) drifts into mental meltdown as he probes a teenager's murder; it's his controlled performance that galvanises this otherwise underpowered thriller. **West End: Metro**

THE KNOWLEDGE OF HEALING (NC)

Director: Franz Reichle
Starring: Terzin Chodrak
Reichle's documentary serves up a crash course in Tibetan medicine. The Dalai Lama and his personal doctor make for reliable sources, but the whole thing proves too info-heavy and indigestible. **West End: Renoir**

LEFT LUGGAGE (PG)

Director: Jeroen Krabbé
Starring: Isabella Rossellini, Maximilian Schell
Krabbe's first stab as a director results in an uncertain soap opera, focusing on the ebbs and flows within a Hasidic family in 1970s Holland. Fiftal as drama, the film comes to life as a showcase for its high-profile performers (Tupac Schell, Rossellini, Krabbé) plus rising star Laura Fraser. **West End: ABC Pantons Street, Curzon Mayfair, Screen on the Hill**

THE ODD COUPLE II (15)

Director: Howard Deutch
Starring: Walter Matthau, Jack Lemmon
The follow-up to Neil Simon's Sixties fat-share favourite dispatches its mismatched couple off to a wedding and then strands them in the desert. From this set-up come all manner of comedy set pieces. The two stars work hard to keep it upright. **West End: Plaza**



Film Xan Brooks

"I GO where I will and I do as I please. That's why I'm in trouble," quips the braying, braggart title character of *Henry Fool* (left), so kicking off Hal Hartley's most wild, witty and perfectly sustained film to date. Nominally about a lowly garbageman (James Urbaniak) who writes a masterpiece, chiefly about art, integrity and inspiration, *Henry Fool* steers its own oddball course throughout. It takes in some startling sights along the way.

On general release
Buttongers, playing at the London Film Festival, is a queer critter from the Czech Republic. Director Petr Zelenka strings together a daisy-chain of six (count 'em) stories stretching from Forties Hiroshima to present-day Prague. A thick band of lugubrious black humour connects its disparate, mercurial strands.

Theatre Dominic Cavendish

IT MIGHT seem a safe bet to launch a new repertory company with *The Seagull* (below), but Chekhov's comedy - which he modestly described as "a lot of talk about literature, not much action, and five bushes of love" - is such an ineffable combination of moods that to have struck a balance between pathos and bathos, as director Jude Kelly



has done, is no mean feat. Ian McKellen inevitably makes a splash as the bemused Doctor Dorn, but the whole ensemble works to create beautifully overlapping ripples of dissatisfaction.

West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds (0113-213 7700) 7.45pm
One of the highlights of the BACs "One Woman" festival - dedicated to female monologues and cabaret turns - must be Cyndi Freeman's *Greetings from Hollywood*, a guided tour of the seedier side of Tinseltown and the damaged egos that fester there by a former made-for-TV soap star.

BAC, London SW11 (0171-223 2223) to Sun, 9pm

Comedy James Rampton

ARDAL O'HANLON's material is never going to topple the government. No one is going to storm the barricades because of a joke about how unfit he is: "Fun Run - those two words should never be seen in the same sentence. Running is something you do when there's another man chasing you with a knife." But the comedian best known as the holy fool, Father Douglas Maguire, in the Channel 4 sitcom *Father Ted*, wins audiences over with his sheer charm. He is appearing as part of the Newcastle Comedy Festival.

Theatre Royal, Newcastle (0191-232 2061) 10pm
Ben Elton's last television series was not universally praised. So after a while away from the live arena, the motormouth comedian (above) may feel he has something to prove with his two shows this weekend. Hecklers should not expect to get a word in edgeways.

Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent (01782 213800) tomorrow & Sun 7.30pm



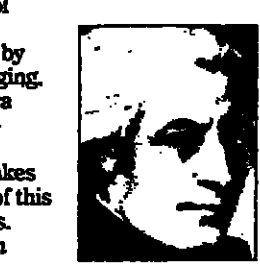
Classical Duncan Hadfield

SIR WILLIAM GLOCK'S inventive programming for the South Bank's ongoing "From the Heart" season has included a dizzying range of music by Mozart (below). Tonight features a fine selection of the composer's work employing wind instruments. Clarinetist Michael Collins teams up with violinist Isabelle van Keulen and pianist Howard Shelley in the K498 Trio, nicknamed *Kegelestatt*. Meanwhile, London Winds give arrangements from Don Giovanni, plus the large-scale *Serenade in C minor*, K388.

Queen Elizabeth Hall, London SE1 (0171-960 4242) 7.45pm

Graham Vick's original evocative production of Puccini's *Madam Butterfly* for the English National Opera has been handsomely revived by Leah Hausman. Equally impressive is the singing, led by Cheryl Barker as Butterfly, Bonaventura Bottone as Pinkerton, and Christopher Booth-Jones as Sharpless. Alex Ingram has been conducting so far, but tonight Jeremy Silver takes over the baton for the last five performances of this run, making his Coliseum debut in the process.

Coliseum, London WC2 (0171-632 8300) 7.30pm



CINEMA WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET (0870-9020418) @ Baker Street
Elizabeth 2.20pm, 5.20pm,
8.10pm
Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 8.15pm

ABC PANTONS STREET (0870-902 0404) @ Piccadilly
Circus The Last Days of Disco 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.25pm
Left Luggage 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
Perfect Murder 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm
Rien Ne Va Plus 1.15pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm

ABC PICCADILLY (0171-287 4322) (from 1pm)
@ Piccadilly
Circus The Big Lebowsky 1.15pm, 5.50pm, 8.20pm
Hustle 2.20pm, 5.50pm
The Spanish Prisoner 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE (0870-902 0402) @ Leicester
Square
The Government 2pm, 5pm
Hope Floats 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE (0870-902 0403) @ Leicester
Square
Le Bossu 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.20pm
Hustle 2.20pm, 5.50pm, 8.20pm, 8.40pm, 8.50pm
Lowe is the Devil 1.20pm, 3.15pm, 5.10pm, 7.05pm, 9pm
La Vie Revee des Anges 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

ABC TOTENHAM COURT (0870-902 0414) @ Tottenham
Court Road
Antz 1.25pm, 3.25pm, 5.25pm, 7.40pm, 9.45pm
The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm
My Name is Joe 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm

BARBICAN SCREEN (0171-638 8891) @ Barbican
Antz 6pm, 8.30pm, Elizabeth 8.40pm
Kansas City Jazz 3.45pm

CHELSEA CINEMA (0171-351 3742) @ Sloane Square
Henry Fool 2.10pm, 5.20pm, 8.15pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE (0171-498 3323) @ Clapham
Common Antz 1pm, 3pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm
Character 9.15pm
Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm
Henry Fool 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.45pm

CURZON MAYFAIR (0171-369 1720) @ Green Park
Buffalo 66 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

CURZON SOHO (0171-734 2255) (12pm-6pm)
@ Leicester Square/Botolph Claydon
Road Fire 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 8.50pm
Henry Fool 1.30pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
La Vie Revee des Anges 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm

ELPHANT AND CASTLE CORONET (0171-703 4968) @ Elephant & Castle
Antz 4pm, 6pm, 8.45pm
Blade 5.15pm, 8.45pm, 8.20pm
Snake Eyes 4.15pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE (0870-988990) @ Leicester Square
Antz 12noon, 2pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm, 11pm
Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas 12.10pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm, 11.40pm
Razor Blade Smile 11pm
Sitting Ducks 1pm, 3.20pm, 5.40pm, 8pm

GATE NOTTING HILL (0171-727 4042) @ Notting Hill
Elizabeth 3.50pm, 6.25pm
Name is Joe 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.50pm
Short: The Man Who Held His Breath 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.50pm

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN (0171-907 0718) @ Ravenscourt
Park/Hammersmith Antz 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm
Blade 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9pm
The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm
Snake Eyes 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.40pm, 9pm

ICA CINEMA (0171-930 3647) @ Charing Cross
Bill Morrison: Shorts 6.30pm, 9.30pm

METRO (0171-734 1506) @ Piccadilly
Circus Buffalo 66 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
Insomnia 1.20pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

CURZON MINEMA (0171-369 1723) @ Knightsbridge
Funny Games 3pm, 6pm, 8.15pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET (0171-727 4042) @ Notting Hill
Gate Elizabeth 3pm, 6pm, 8.15pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN (0171-935 2772) @ Camden Town
Antz 12.10pm, 2.25pm, 4.40pm, 6.55pm, 9.20pm
Blade 12noon, 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm, 11.10pm
Elizabeth 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm
The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 1.15pm, 3.05pm, 5.55pm, 8.35pm, 11.15pm
Halloween: H20 11.50pm
Razor Blade Smile 11.35pm
Snake Eyes 1.45pm, 2pm, 4.25pm, 6.45pm, 9.05pm, 11.30pm
The Truman Show 3.55pm, 8.55pm

ODEON HAYMARKET (0171-935 2772) @ Piccadilly
Circus Elizabeth 2.15pm, 5pm, 7.45pm, 8.45pm

ODEON KENSINGTON (0870-050007) @ High Street
Kensington Antz 12noon, 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 7.15pm, 9.35pm, 12.10am
Blade 12.35pm, 3.30pm, 6.25pm, 9.20pm, 12.15pm
Elizabeth 12.15pm, 3.30pm, 6.25pm, 9.20pm, 12.15pm
The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 1.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.10pm, 11.10pm
Halloween: H20 12.20am
Hope Floats 12.45pm, 3.35pm, 6.25pm, 9.15pm, 12.05am
Snake Eyes 12.5am, 4.35pm, 7.10pm, 9.45pm, 12.15am

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE (0870-050007) @ Leicester Square
Snake Eyes 1.50pm, 4.05pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm, 11.20pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH (0870-050007) @ Marble Arch
Antz 12.10pm, 2.25pm, 4.45pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm
Blade 12.15pm, 3.10pm, 6.05pm, 8.55pm, 11.40pm
Elizabeth 12.30pm, 3.25pm, 6.15pm, 9.10pm, 11.55pm
The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 1.20pm, 3.10pm, 5.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.10pm, 11.55pm
Halloween: H20 11.55pm
The Player's Club 11.25pm
Snake Eyes 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm, 11.30pm

ODEON MEZZANINE (0870-050007) @ Leicester Square
Elizabeth 12.35pm, 3.05pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm
Miles 1.50pm, 3.55pm
Six Days, Seven Nights 6.25pm
There's Something About Mary 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm
The Wedding Singer 2.20pm, 4.25pm, 6.35pm, 8.45pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE (0870-050007) @ Swiss Cottage
Antz 12.25pm, 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm
Blade 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm, 11.10pm
Elizabeth 12.10pm, 2.10pm, 5.25pm, 8.10pm
Hope Floats 12.25pm, 3.10pm, 5.45pm, 8.15pm
Snake Eyes 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm, 11.15pm
The Truman Show 1.10pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.50pm

PEPSI BLAX CINEMA (0171-494 4153) @ Piccadilly
Circus Across the Sea of Time - A New York Adventure (3-D) 12.55pm, 3pm, 5.10pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm, 11.55pm
City in Space 2.05pm, 6.20pm, 9.20pm
Everest 4.10pm, 8.20pm

PHOENIX CINEMA (0181-444 6789) @ East Finchley
Elizabeth 3.50pm, 6.25pm
The Government 1.25pm, 9pm

PLAZA (0870-988990) @ Piccadilly
Circus The Odd Couple II 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Primary Colors 1.40pm, 4.30pm, 8.15pm
Saving Private Ryan 3.15pm, 7.15pm
The Truman Show 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.40pm

RENOIR (0171-837 8402) @ Russell Square
Henry Fool 2.10pm, 5.20pm, 8.15pm
The Knowledge of Healing 1.05pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

RIO CINEMA (0171-254 6677) @ Dalston
Kingdom Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm

RITZY CINEMA (0171-930 3647) @ Brick Lane
Antz 2.50pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.30pm
Blade 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 8.20pm
The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.15pm, 11.55pm
Henry Fool 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.45pm, 11.30pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 8.20pm, 11.20pm

ROCK ROYAL WARNER VILLAGE (0181-444 6789) @ Rock Road Antz
2.50pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.30pm
Blade 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 8.20pm
The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.15pm, 11.55pm
Henry Fool 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.45pm, 11.30pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 8.20pm, 11.20pm

ROCK ROYAL WARNER VILLAGE (0181-444 6789) @ Rock Road Antz
2.50pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.30pm
Blade 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 8.20pm
The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.15pm, 11.55pm
Henry Fool 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.45pm, 11.30pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 8.20pm, 11.20pm

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Blade 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 8.20pm
The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 1.

FRIDAY RADIO

PICK OF THE DAY

DAVID MUNROW was a talented musician and talker who virtually invented the field of early music so far as the public was concerned - some of his recordings with the Early Music Consort of London remain classics, while his music programme *Pied Piper* on Radio 3, infected people of all ages with his enthusiasm for music. His life is the subject of today's *Sound Stories* (11am R3), this week

concentrating on musicians who died young - Munrow qualified by killing himself at the age of 33. Spin-doctoring has now become acceptable enough to get its own panel game: *True Lies* (6.30pm R4) has David Aaronovitch (right) inviting guests to translate the week's news, launch their own damage limitation exercises and explain buzzwords.

ROBERT HANES



Alan is joined by guests in the studio to talk over the main sporting points of the week and also look ahead to the weekend's action, including the rugby union and rugby league international fixtures.

CLASSIC FM (100.0-101.9MHz FM)
6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 Jamie Cricht. 6.30 Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert: Salieri: Piano Concerto in B flat. 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Le Grand Meaulnes. Philip French reads Alain-Fournier's classic story, abridged by Doreen Estall (5/10).

11.00 Late Tackle. Eleanor O'Driscoll hosts another edition of the late-night sports chat show. Rugby union is one of the sports discussed tonight as England begin their qualifying campaign for the 1999 World Cup.

11.30 Notes from the Ditch. 12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Book: News of a Kidnaping. 12.45 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.45 Prayer for the Day. 5.47 Leisure Update. 5.56 - 6.00 Weather.

RADIO 4 LW (198kHz)
9.45 - 10.00 An Act of Worship. 12.00 - 12.04 News: Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast. 11.30-6.00 Parliament.

RADIO 5 LIVE (693, 908kHz MW)
6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 Nicky Campbell. 12.00 The Midday News. 1.00 Ruscoe and Co. 4.00 Drive. 7.00 News Extra. 7.30 Alan Green's Sportsnight.

RADIO 1 (97.8-99.8MHz FM)
6.30 Zoe Ball. 9.00 Simon Mayo. 12.00 Jo Whiley. 2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Chris Moyles. 5.45 Newsbeat. 6.00 Pete Tong's Essential Selection. 9.00 Judge Jules. 11.00 Westwood - Radio 1 Rap Show. 2.00 Fabio and Grooverider. 4.00-7.00 Emma B.

RADIO 2 (89.9-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 Alex Lester. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed Stewart. Entertainment news, a Brain Buster, the Friday final of the Accumulator Quiz and regular travel updates. 5.05 Des Lynam. 7.00 Hubert Gregg. 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night: Live from the Hippodrome, Golders Green, London. Richard Baker introduces the BBC Concert Orchestra, conducted by Barry Wordsworth, with guest artists Anna Maria Kaufmann, Adrian Martin and Gheorghe Zamfir on the pan pipes. At 8.15, during the interval, Leonard Pearcey introduces an item by the Radio 2 Young Musician 1998, violinist Kahae Han. 9.45 Wuthering Heights. 9.30 Listen to the Band. 10.00 David Jacobs. 10.30 Sheridan Morley. 12.00 Lynn Parsons. 4.00 - 6.00 Jackie Bird.

RADIO 3 (90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air. 9.00 Masterworks. 10.30 Artist of the Week. 11.00 Sound Stories. See *Pick of the Day*. 12.00 Composer of the Week: Debussy. 1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. (R) 2.00 The BBC Orchestras. 4.00 Music Restored. 4.45 Music Machine. 5.00 In Tune. 7.30 Performance on 3. More from the London Symphony Orchestra's Shostakovich retrospective, conducted by Mstislav Rostropovich. Mstislav Rostropovich (cello), London Symphony Orchestra/Ryusuke Numajiri and Mstislav Rostropovich. Shostakovich: Cello Concerto No 1; Symphony No 11 (The Year 1905).

9.20 Postscript. David Gale talks to five leading thinkers about their own radical vision of the future. 5: Taken to hanging himself from meat hooks and wiring his body to a computer which manipulates his limbs, Stelarc sees himself as 'a body artist working in the digital medium'. He believes that the human body is obsolete and should be replaced by robotic, prosthetic equivalents. 9.45 Reynaldo Hahn. Fetes galantes; Nocturne; Moliere: L'Heure exquise; Offrande; Si mes vers avaient des ailes. Susan Graham (mezzo), Roger Vignoles (piano). 10.00 Magnus Lindberg Composer Portrait. Anthony Burton presents the second of two BBC Symphony Orchestra 'Composer Portraits'. This programme celebrates the vibrant music of the Finnish composer Magnus Lindberg, conducted by his compatriot Jukka-Pekka Saraste. Featured works are 'Corrente II', 'Arenza', 'Marea' and 'Feresa'. 11.30 Mississippi Goddam. 12.00 Composer of the Week: Monteverdi. (R) 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

RADIO 4 (92.4-94.6MHz FM)
6.00 Today. 9.00 NEWS: Desert Island Discs. 9.45 Serial: Memoirs of an Infantry Officer. 10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour. 11.00 NEWS: Flying Starts. (R) 11.30 Girls. (R) 12.00 NEWS: You and Yours.

12.57 Weather. 1.00 The World at One. 1.30 Score Test. 2.00 NEWS: The Archers. 2.15 Afternoon Play: In Singapore. 3.00 NEWS: Making History. 3.30 Dedicated to... 3.45 Feedback. 4.00 NEWS: Open Book. 4.30 The Message. 5.00 PM. 5.57 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.30 True Lies. See *Pick of the Day*. 7.00 NEWS: The Archers. 7.45 Front Row: Franchi Stock chairs the night's arts programme. 7.45 Still Waters. By Sergio Casci. Kate Taylor runs a magazine that draws its stories from the ancient mysteries of the Scottish border hills. But Kate also has a personal mystery to solve - why did her husband, Peter, disappear seven years ago? With Ann Scott-Jones and Emma Currie. Director Patrick Rayner. Part 5. 8.00 NEWS: Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby is joined in Wickham, Hampshire, by panellists including Lord Jenkinson and Lady Tremain. 8.45 Letter from America. Alistair Cooke with another slice of Americana. 9.00 NEWS: The Friday Play: Mother Teresa in Kilburn. By John Dove. A chance encounter leads Kate to Mother Teresa's shelter for the homeless in Kilburn - and to Jack and Peter. With Isabel Pollen. Leena Dhingra, Lesley Vickerage

and Trevor Martin. Director Michael Crompton. 10.00 The World Tonight. 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Le Grand Meaulnes. Philip French reads Alain-Fournier's classic story, abridged by Doreen Estall (5/10). 11.00 Late Tackle. Eleanor O'Driscoll hosts another edition of the late-night sports chat show. Rugby union is one of the sports discussed tonight as England begin their qualifying campaign for the 1999 World Cup. 11.30 Notes from the Ditch. 12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Book: News of a Kidnaping. 12.45 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.45 Prayer for the Day. 5.47 Leisure Update. 5.56 - 6.00 Weather.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

COLIN FIRTH'S emergence in wet breeches from a lake in *Pride and Prejudice* created an outbreak of "Darcymania" and propelled him into the stellar league. In *Fever Pitch* (Spn FilmFour) he stars as a teacher whose affair with a colleague (Ruth Gemmell, right) does little to dampen his ardour for Arsenal Football Club. Although only loosely based on his best-seller, Nick Hornby's script does capture that sense of complete,

one-eyed obsession which is such a winning feature of the book and made it appeal to women as much as men. These days you can hardly move for the 1970s revivals - the cinema (*Boogie Nights*) and theatre (*Saturday Night Fever*) are full of it. Fans of the new movie, *Velvet Goldmine*, might want to get out their glitter-boots and watch tonight's *Greatest Hits* (11am V8-1) which focuses on glam rock.

JAMES RAMPTON



SKY PREMIER
6.00 Karate Kid II (1986) (98938). 8.00 That Thing You Do! (1996) (47394). 10.00 Switching Channels (1998) (10038). 12.00 Karate Kid II (1986) (98938). 2.00 King Ralph (1991) (82042). 4.00 Switching Channels (1998) (98938). 6.00 What the Dead Men Heard (1997) (65705). 8.00 That Thing You Do! (1996) (47394). 10.00 Donnie Brasco (1997) (7380607). 12.05 Courage Under Fire (1996) (71627). 2.05 Goldblond (1998) (65705). 4.00 - 6.00 Screeners (1995) (6370646).

SKY MOVIE
6.00 Battle for the Planet of the Apes (1973) (73482). 7.30 White Dwarf (1995) (5435223). 9.45 No More Bats! (1997) (5236077). 11.00 Bury Me in Nigeria (1992) (70888). 1.00 Battle for the Planet of the Apes (1973) (73482). 3.00 White Dwarf (1995) (5435223). 5.00 No More Bats! (1997) (5236077). 7.00 UK Top Ten (1993). 8.00 Fatales (1993). 8.30 Cheech and Chong: The Corsican Brothers (1984) (88597). 10.00 Bulletproof (1996) (4803961). 11.25 Twin Town (1997) (97400). 1.05 The Krays (1990) (74462). 3.05 - 6.00 See No Evil, Hear No Evil (1989) (6324801).

SKY CINEMA
6.00 Gunga Din (1939) (62648). 8.00 The Naked Runner (1967) (580348). 10.00 I Walk the Line (1970) (449665). 12.00 Days of Glory (1944) (82226). 1.10 Marathon Man (1976) (7749400). 1.35 Pony Express (1953) (6337678). 3.20-4.55 Top Hat (1935) (595822).

FILMFOUR
6.00 Short Attention Span Cinema (1942-2000). 7.30 Only a Game (1996) (630077). 8.00 Fever Pitch (1996) (630077). 8.30 Pick of the Day. 10.00 Metador (1996) (682481). 11.30 Last Seduction (1994) (687925). 12.00 Cronos (1992) (682004). 2.00 Near Dark (1987) (688301). 4.30 - 6.00 Crystal Voyager (1974) (682883).

DISCOVERY CHANNEL
4.00 Real Hunts Fishing World (1985-1988). 4.30 Wheel Nuts (1996-1998). 5.00 First Flights (1975-1998). 5.30 Ancient Warriors (1975-1998). 6.00 Animal Doctor (1975-1998). 6.30 Orcas: Killers I Have Known (1981-1998). 7.30 Beyond 2000 (1992-1998). 8.00 The Best of Discovery: The Moccasin Story (1992-1998). 9.00 Crocodile Hunter (1992-1998). 10.00 The Great Egyptians (1992-1998). 11.00 The Century of Warfare (1992-1998). 12.00 Real Lives (1977-1998).

SKY ONE
7.00 The Simpsons (1971). 7.30 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (1974-1998). 8.30 Hollywood Squares (1974-1998). 9.00 Gullit (1994). 10.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (1993). 11.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (1976). 12.00 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (1974-1998). 12.55 The Special K Collection (1974-1998). 1.00 Days of Our Lives (1970-1998). 1.55 The Special K Collection (1974-1998). 2.55 The Special K Collection (1974-1998). 3.00 Jenny Jones (1985-1998). 3.55 The Special K Collection (1974-1998). 4.00 Gullit (1994). 4.30 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (1989). 5.00 Married with Children (1989). 6.30 Friends (1994). 7.00 The Simpsons (1971). 7.30 The Simpsons (1971). 8.30 The Simpsons (1971). 9.00 Cops (1977-1998). 10.30 Cops (1977-1998). 11.00 Friends (1994). 12.00 Friends (1994). 12.30 Friends (1994). 1.00 Long Play (1985-1998).

SKY SPORTS 1
6.30 Futures in Sport (1992-1998). 7.00 Sky Sports Centre (1975-1998). 7.30 World Wrestling Federation Superstars (1975-1998). 8.30 Sky Sports Centre (1975-1998). 9.30 Sky Sports Centre (1975-1998). 10.30 Sky Sports Centre (1975-1998). 11.30 Sky Sports Centre (1975-1998). 12.30 Sky Sports Centre (1975-1998). 1.00 Hold the Back Page (1984-1998).

SKY SPORTS 2
6.30 Futures in Sport (1992-1998). 7.00 Sky Sports Centre (1975-1998). 7.30 World Wrestling Federation Superstars (1975-1998). 8.30 Sky Sports Centre (1975-1998). 9.30 Sky Sports Centre (1975-1998). 10.30 Sky Sports Centre (1975-1998). 11.30 Sky Sports Centre (1975-1998). 12.30 Sky Sports Centre (1975-1998). 1.00 Hold the Back Page (1984-1998).

SKY SPORTS 3
6.30 Futures in Sport (1992-1998). 7.00 Sky Sports Centre (1975-1998). 7.30 World Wrestling Federation Superstars (1975-1998). 8.30 Sky Sports Centre (1975-1998). 9.30 Sky Sports Centre (1975-1998). 10.30 Sky Sports Centre (1975-1998). 11.30 Sky Sports Centre (1975-1998). 12.30 Sky Sports Centre (1975-1998). 1.00 Hold the Back Page (1984-1998).

2.00 Speedway Grand Prix 96 Season Review (1996). 4.30 Gillette World Sport Special (1997-1998). 5.00 - 6.00 Sky Sports Centre (1975-1998).

SKY SPORTS 3
11.30 Futures in Sport (1992-1998). 12.00 Trans World Sport (1995-1998). 1.00 Tight Lines (1975-1998). 2.00 Boby by Charlton's Football Scrapbook (1975-1998). 3.30 Rebel TV (1975-1998). 4.00 Motor Sport: Champion of the Future (1992-1998). 4.30 Formula Three (1992-1998). 5.00 Formula Three (1992-1998). 5.30 Formula Three (1992-1998). 6.00 Formula Three (1992-1998). 6.30 Formula Three (1992-1998). 7.00 Formula Three (1992-1998). 7.30 Formula Three (1992-1998). 8.00 Formula Three (1992-1998). 8.30 Formula Three (1992-1998). 9.00 Formula Three (1992-1998). 9.30 Formula Three (1992-1998). 10.00 Formula Three (1992-1998). 10.30 Formula Three (1992-1998). 11.00 Formula Three (1992-1998). 11.30 Formula Three (1992-1998). 12.00 Formula Three (1992-1998). 12.30 Formula Three (1992-1998). 1.00 Formula Three (1992-1998).

UK GOLD
7.00 Crossroads (1962-1964). 7.30 Neighbours (1985-1987). 7.55 EastEnders (1985-1987). 8.30 The Bill (1970-1998). 9.00 The Bill (1970-1998). 9.30 The Bill (1970-1998). 10.00 The Bill (1970-1998). 10.30 The Bill (1970-1998). 11.00 The Bill (1970-1998). 11.30 The Bill (1970-1998). 12.00 The Bill (1970-1998). 12.30 The Bill (1970-1998). 1.00 The Bill (1970-1998). 1.30 The Bill (1970-1998). 2.00 The Bill (1970-1998). 2.30 The Bill (1970-1998). 3.00 The Bill (1970-1998). 3.30 The Bill (1970-1998). 4.00 The Bill (1970-1998). 4.30 The Bill (1970-1998). 5.00 The Bill (1970-1998). 5.30 The Bill (1970-1998). 6.00 The Bill (1970-1998). 6.30 The Bill (1970-1998). 7.00 The Bill (1970-1998). 7.30 The Bill (1970-1998). 8.00 The Bill (1970-1998). 8.30 The Bill (1970-1998). 9.00 The Bill (1970-1998). 9.30 The Bill (1970-1998). 10.00 The Bill (1970-1998). 10.30 The Bill (1970-1998). 11.00 The Bill (1970-1998). 11.30 The Bill (1970-1998). 12.00 The Bill (1970-1998). 12.30 The Bill (1970-1998). 1.00 The Bill (1970-1998).

LIVING
6.00 Tiny Living (1994-1998). 9.00 The Roseanne Show (1984-1998). 9.30 The Jerry Springer Show (1984-1998). 10.40 Michael Cole (1984-1998). 11.30 The Heat is On (1984-1998). 12.00 Living Issues (1984-1998). 12.30 Rescue 911 (1984-1998). 1.00 Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction (1984-1998). 2.00 Ready, Steady, Cook (1984-1998). 2.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (1984-1998). 3.00 Ready, Steady, Cook (1984-1998). 3.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (1984-1998). 4.00 Ready, Steady, Cook (1984-1998). 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (1984-1998). 5.00 Ready, Steady, Cook (1984-1998). 5.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (1984-1998). 6.00 Ready, Steady, Cook (1984-1998). 6.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (1984-1998). 7.00 Ready, Steady, Cook (1984-1998). 7.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (1984-1998). 8.00 Ready, Steady, Cook (1984-1998). 8.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (1984-1998). 9.00 Ready, Steady, Cook (1984-1998). 9.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (1984-1998). 10.00 Ready, Steady, Cook (1984-1998). 10.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (1984-1998). 11.00 Ready, Steady, Cook (1984-1998). 11.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (1984-1998). 12.00 Ready, Steady, Cook (1984-1998). 12.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (1984-1998). 1.00 Ready, Steady, Cook (1984-1998).

EUROSPORT
7.30 Fun Sports (1995). 8.00 Bobblehead (1995). 8.30 Luge (1995). 9.00 Weightlifting (1995). 9.30 Luge (1995). 10.00 Weightlifting (1995). 10.30 Luge (1995). 11.00 Weightlifting (1995). 11.30 Luge (1995). 12.00 Weightlifting (1995). 12.30 Luge (1995). 1.00 Weightlifting (1995). 1.30 Luge (1995). 2.00 Weightlifting (1995). 2.30 Luge (1995). 3.00 Weightlifting (1995). 3.30 Luge (1995). 4.00 Weightlifting (1995). 4.30 Luge (1995). 5.00 Weightlifting (1995). 5.30 Luge (1995). 6.00 Weightlifting (1995). 6.30 Luge (1995). 7.00 Weightlifting (1995). 7.30 Luge (1995). 8.00 Weightlifting (1995). 8.30 Luge (1995). 9.00 Weightlifting (1995). 9.30 Luge (1995). 10.00 Weightlifting (1995). 10.30 Luge (1995). 11.00 Weightlifting (1995). 11.30 Luge (1995). 12.00 Weightlifting (1995). 12.30 Luge (1995). 1.00 Weightlifting (1995).

YORKSHIRE
As Carlton except: 10.35 This Morning (1995-1998). 12.35 Calendar News and Weather (1995-1998). 1.00 Yorkshire (1995-1998). 1.30 Yorkshire (1995-1998). 2.00 Yorkshire (1995-1998). 2.30 Yorkshire (1995-1998). 3.00 Yorkshire (1995-1998). 3.30 Yorkshire (1995-1998). 4.00 Yorkshire (1995-1998). 4.30 Yorkshire (1995-1998). 5.00 Yorkshire (1995-1998). 5.30 Yorkshire (1995-1998). 6.00 Yorkshire (1995-1998). 6.30 Yorkshire (1995-1998). 7.00 Yorkshire (1995-1998). 7.30 Yorkshire (1995-1998). 8.00 Yorkshire (1995-1998). 8.30 Yorkshire (1995-1998). 9.00 Yorkshire (1995-1998). 9.30 Yorkshire (1995-1998). 10.00 Yorkshire (1995-1998). 10.30 Yorkshire (1995-1998). 11.00 Yorkshire (1995-1998). 11.30 Yorkshire (1995-1998). 12.00 Yorkshire (1995-1998). 12.30 Yorkshire (1995-1998). 1.00 Yorkshire (1995-1998).

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS

JON SPEELMAN

THE BATTLE for the £3,000 first prize in the Onyx Grand Prix took an unexpected turn this week, as it emerged that Leicester grandmaster Mark Hebden is in the lead.

The anomaly came to light when Grand Prix supreme Leonard Borden received the full cross-tables of the British Rapidplay at Leeds, which showed that Hebden had played a stronger field than had been assumed. As a result, Hebden received an increased bonus, which leaves him on 190.8 out of a maximum 200 and ahead of Keith Arkell on 180.2. Meanwhile, as mooted here a fortnight ago, Jim Plaskett has also gained due to the correction of an administrative error and moves up to 188.3, ahead of Aaron Summerscale (177.4), Colin Crouch (173) and John Shaw (165.2).

There's plenty of time for more bloodshed though before high noon at Islington, in London, on the last weekend before Christmas. Arkell and Plaskett are both currently in battle in the seventh Monarch Assurance Open in the Isle of Man, while Hebden himself is here in Andorra at the Western European Zonal.

When I told Hebden, he was delighted to move into the lead without playing, but naturally sanguine about the race to the finish. In any case, matters here are taking our full attention as the pack bunches before the dash to end up in the top six places. The leaders have been being very peaceable, particularly Tony Miles, who collapsed through trying too hard while well in the lead at the previous zonal three years ago in Linares, is therefore, after his explosive start of three straight wins, taking it extremely easy.

TALK RADIO
7.00 Bill Overton and Kirsty Young. 9.00 Scott Chisholm. 11.00 Lorraine Kelly. 1.00 Anna Raeburn. 3.00 Tommy Boyd. 5.00 Peter Deely. 7.00 Nick Abbot. 10.00 Mike Allen. 2.00 - 6.00 Mike Dickin.

Just below the top boards, however, there has been some ferocious action, notably this splendid effort on Wednesday which propelled Lock van Wely into the leading group.

With three rounds to go Miles, Comas-Bauer and Van Wely lead on 15.5, ahead of four players on 4 and a large group on 3.5 - including John Emms and myself.

Van Wely, as Black, found himself up against a manically sharp line of the Grunfeld, White playing for mate along the H file and leaving his centre to fend for itself. Vaisser's critical error was to block his bishop with 17.Nf4? for after 17...e6! White had no attack and was quickly slaughtered.

Instead 17.f4 was most critical; a move which Van Wely had overlooked though in the post mortem he quickly flashed out 17...Nd5 - 18.Qxd3 Bf5 when if 19.Qg3 e4! 20.Qh4 Re8 is probably good for Black but 19.Qg3 looks better to prepare Bf5 in reply to 19...a4 - instead 19...dxc3 20.Be3! not 20.g4! Qd3! forcing the exchange of queens - 20...e2 21.Re1 is very unclear

White: Anatoly Vaisser
Black: Lock Van Wely
Andorra Zonal 1998
Grunfeld Defence

1.d4 Nf6	13.h5 cxd4
2.c4 g5	14.hxg6 hxg6
3.Nc3 d5	15.Qd3 Nxe5
4.cxd5 Nxd5	16.Qg3 Bg4
5.e4 Nxe3	17.Nf4! e6!
6.bxc3 B7	18.Qb2 Re8
7.Bb5+ c6	19.Bf5 Bf5
8.Ba4 0-0	20.Qb7+ Kb8
9.Ne2 b5	21.g4! Nxd3+
10.Bb3 a5	22.Kf2 Ng5!
11.e5 c5	23.Qh2 Bc4
12.h4 Nc6	White resigns

BRIDGE

ALAN HIRON

IT SHOULD have been a simple exercise in communication play, but East took his eye off the ball, and as a result, South made a doubled game that should have failed.

North opened One Club and East, not vulnerable, overcalled with One Diamond, not with any serious intentions, but to suggest a lead if South became declarer. This seemed to have worked well when South bid 1NT, West passed and North raised to 3NT (there was little point in him bidding spades for with four South would not have chosen 1NT).

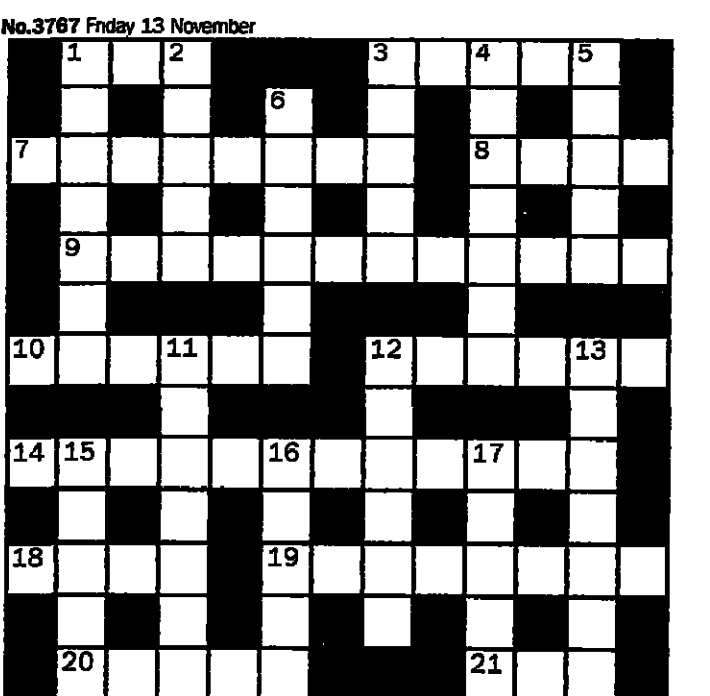
When this came round to West, he doubled to end the auction. The double was perhaps a little unwise, for it seemed North-South were short of points and might be relying on a long club suit. It should, however, have worked out well.

West led ♠2 against 3NT doubled, East won with his king and returned a low diamond. When South's nine brought the queen from West, it was all over. With no entry to the long diamond in East's hand, the defenders had to be content with three diamond tricks and a heart.

North-South game, dealer North	
North	East
♠ A 10 7 6	♠ J 8 4
♥ K 10	♥ 9 8 6 2
♦ 4	♦ A K 10 6 3
♣ A K J 7 6 4	♣ 5
West	South
♠ K 9 3	♠ Q 5 2
♥ A 7 4 3	♥ Q J 5
♦ Q 8 2	♦ J 9 7 5
♣ 9 8 2	♣ Q 10 3

In view of the total lack of outside entries to East's hand, the winning defence should not have been too difficult to find. East must play ♠10, not the king, on the opening lead. This would be correct even if West's diamonds were as good as Q 9 2. South may win with ♠J but cannot run more than eight tricks. As soon as he loses the lead, the defenders are in a position to take five tricks.

CONCISE CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Savoury item with crust (3)
 - Grasp (5)
 - Well-known (8)
 - Theatre box (4)
 - Open, as arms (12)
 - Scanty (6)
 - Small and dainty (6)
 - Financial institution (8,4)
 - Arm or leg (4)
 - Fish (8)
 - German beer-mug (5)
 - Idiot (3)
- DOWN**
- Bird with splendid tail (7)
 - Decree (5)
 - Type of cloth (5)
 - Unlawful (7)
 - Bird of prey (5)
 - Cold and bleak (6)
 - Gnucome (7)
 - Annoyed (3,3)
 - Start of flight (4,3)
 - Arranges for publication (5)
 - Fire-raising (5)
 - Aggressive behaviour (5)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:
ACROSS: 1. French (4), 2. Moccasin (7), 3. Moccasin (7), 4. Moccasin (7), 5. Moccasin (7), 6. Moccasin (7), 7. Moccasin (7), 8. Moccasin (7), 9. Moccasin (7), 10. Moccasin (7), 11. Moccasin (7), 12. Moccasin (7), 13. Moccasin (7), 14. Moccasin (7), 15. Moccasin (7), 16. Moccasin (7), 17. Moccasin (7), 18. Moccasin (7), 19. Moccasin (7), 20. Moccasin (7).
DOWN: 1. Moccasin (7), 2. Moccasin (7), 3. Moccasin (7), 4. Moccasin (7), 5. Moccasin (7), 6. Moccasin (7), 7. Moccasin (7), 8. Moccasin (7), 9. Moccasin (7), 10. Moccasin (7), 11. Moccasin (7), 12. Moccasin (7), 13. Moccasin (7), 14. Moccasin (7), 15. Moccasin (7), 16. Moccasin (7), 17. Moccasin (7), 18. Moccasin (7), 19. Moccasin (7), 20. Moccasin (7).

هكذا مضى العمل